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Two-time Olympian Donn Cabral grateful despite difficult year as he heads into Manchester Road Race

A NEW APPRECIATION

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — Last November, Donn Cabral and his family were trying to absorb the shock of his father's cancer diagnosis. COVID-19 numbers were starting to go up in Connecticut again. The Manchester Road Race, which Cabral had always dreamed of winning, was canceled.

It was a dreary Thanksgiving Day for Cabral, the two-time Olympic steeplechaser from Glastonbury. But it was also the beginning of a time of appreciation. That mindset sustained him through a difficult year, a



Donn Cabral competes in the finals of the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials on June 25 in Oregon. **CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP**

year in which he didn't make the Olympic team for the first time, a year in which his father John passed away in September at age 68.

It was also a year of change. He moved away from Connecticut and started working as a lawyer. He had to cut back his running. He would no longer be able to compete with the elite athletes lining up on the start line of the Manchester Road Race. But Cabral, who lives in Philadelphia, will be there for the 19th time on Thursday morning at the 85th annual Thanksgiving Day road race.

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Ga. jury convicts 3 in killing of Arbery

Defendants face life sentences after murder verdicts

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Jurors on Wednesday convicted the three white men charged with murder and other crimes in the death of Ahmaud Arbery, the Black man who was chased and fatally shot while running through their neighborhood in an attack that became part of the larger national reckoning on racial injustice.

The jury deliberated for about 10 hours before convicting Greg McMichael, son Travis McMichael and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan, who all face minimum sentences of life in prison. It is up to the judge to decide whether that comes with or without the possibility of parole.

Travis McMichael stood for the verdict, his lawyer's arm around his shoulder. At one point, McMichael lowered his head to his chest. After the verdicts were read, as he stood to leave, he mouthed "love you" to his mother, who was in the courtroom.

Moments after the verdicts were announced, Arbery's father, Marcus Arbery, was seen crying and hugging supporters outside the courtroom.

"He didn't do nothing," the father said, "but run and dream."

Ben Crump, attorney for Arbery's father, spoke outside the courthouse, saying repeatedly, "The spirit of Ahmaud defeated the lynch mob."

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Above, FedEx driver Ruben Velasquez brings packages to merchants at Westfarms Mall in West Hartford. Below, shoppers walk through the mall ahead of Black Friday. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

Santa came early

Holiday shopping isn't waiting around for Black Friday as pandemic complications and supply chain woes blur lines of buying season



By Stephen Singer | Hartford Courant

Shoppers accustomed to trouble, but eager for as normal a holiday season as possible, began early and are spending freely in the second Christmas season marred by COVID-19.

The pandemic has eased in most of the United States with vaccinations of up to 200 million Americans. But the economy is now struggling with supply chain bottlenecks, worker shortages and inflation that are blurring the lines on the traditional holiday shopping season.

"It's going to be a hybrid holiday this year, blending the return of a celebratory feeling with the now normalized pandemic lifestyle," said Marshal Cohen, chief retail

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

93% of K-12 teachers, staff vaccinated for COVID-19

Rate at some private schools lags behind

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Three months after Connecticut rolled out its COVID-19 vaccination regulations for K-12 teachers and staff, the state's public and private schools boast high employee vaccination rates. But there are some concerning

outliers, including 15 schools in Connecticut — all small, private schools — which have vaccination rates below 75%, and a some as low as 50%, 25% or even 7%.

Overall, the vaccination rate among K-12 teachers across the state is extremely high. According to the state data, 93% of public school employees statewide are fully vaccinated, representing more than 95,000 of the

Turn to Vaccines, Page 3

Winterfest skating back at Bushnell Park

Winterfest Hartford, the annual outdoor series of free ice skating days in Bushnell Park that features music, Santa and seasonal activities, runs Friday to Jan. 9. "Things are not all the way back to normal yet but this is an outdoor event where people feel safe and comfortable," said Jackie Mandyck, executive director of iQuilt Partnership, which organizes Winterfest.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Cabral

from Page 1

“This is the slowest I’m coming into the Manchester Road Race. I haven’t been this unfit since I was probably 14, 15 years old,” Cabral said Monday at the press lunch at the Manchester Country Club. “But it’s also the most excited I’ve been to be here at the Manchester Road Race and take part in it. And that’s because of this new era of appreciation. “So, I hope we can all appreciate what we have, what we’ve missed and what we all bring to the table together and individually. Whether it’s appreciating a loved one you can’t talk to anymore. Appreciating the ability to take the time for yourself to go get a run in, be outside. Whether it’s the ability to gather with friends again. To be united for once in our community, it’s such a divided time. To appreciate the value of tradition.”

Appreciation takes work. Cabral — whose top finish in Manchester came in 2015 when he finished second — was an Olympic caliber athlete up until the end of June. It’s not something you can just turn off easily.

“Hearing [elite athlete coordinator] Jim Harvey talk about the elite athletes that are going to be here and how much I would have salivated to race those guys — now I’m thinking, ‘Hopefully I can have a great view of the women’s race as that’s going on,’” he said. “It’s just going to be different, and I’m taking it all in stride.”

Cabral is coaching one of the elite runners in the race, Alfredo Santana.

“I work out with him and he’s so much faster than me, I’ll spend most of the rest of the week sore,” he said. “So that’s why running feels like crap. It’s not because I’m 31 and an old man.”

The race was held virtually last year. Cabral went out for a training run on the Glastonbury High track the day before Thanksgiving and ended up running the fastest time of anybody in



U.S. Olympian Donn Cabral, center, poses with mom, Debbie, and dad, John, at their Glastonbury home shortly before departing for the 2012 Olympics. John Cabral died of cancer at age 68 in September. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT FILE**

33 minutes. Nineteen laps in, he clicked off his watch and submitted the time, then kept running. At that point, he had his eye on making the U.S. Olympic track and field team one more time after competing in London in 2012 and Rio in 2016, finishing eighth in the steeplechase both times.

He finished sixth in the final heat at the Olympic Trials on June 25 in Eugene, Oregon. Only the top three went to Tokyo.

Still, not everything was bad. Cabral got engaged and passed the bar exam. He moved from Hartford to Philadelphia where he works for a law firm specializing in civil litigation.

“Everyone had big years of change,” he said. “People suffered losses. People changed jobs, quit jobs.

Everybody went through something. I went through my own things. It was personal, with the loss of my father and big life-changing events like moving out of the state that I love so much, moving to a city, starting a job as a lawyer. And for the first time since I was probably a sophomore in high school, actually not really caring so much about how fast I can be.

“It makes me appreciate the little things more. It makes me appreciate getting together for the race, getting together with the community, going out for a run. Now I get a run in 3-4 days a week although it usually doesn’t feel quite as good as it used to and everything hurts now.”

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Donn Cabral chats with Manchester Road Race director Jim Balcome at the 2019 news conference at the Manchester Country Club. **HARTFORD COURANT FILE**

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LOTTERY

Wednesday, Nov. 24

PLAY3 DAY

2 2 6 WB: 2

PLAY4 DAY

1 2 6 2 WB: 2

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

9 7 3 WB: 8

PLAY4 NIGHT

2 3 6 7 WB: 0

CASH 5

1 8 20 21 29

LUCKY FOR LIFE

6 11 14 16 41 LB: 14

LOTTO

5 11 15 29 32 41

MEGA MILLIONS

7 24 54 57 58 MB: 6 MP: 3

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11/27 Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez
Christine Ohlman (a/k/a "The Beehive Queen" for her mile-high platinum-blond hairdo) and her band take the stage for A Celebration of Thanksgiving: Love is in the Air!

12/1 Ben Ottewell & Ian Ball of Gomez
Taking a break from writing sessions for Gomez's performances will draw from Gomez fan favorites, highlights from their respective solo projects, and offer an opportunity to road-test some of their newest work.

12/2 Close to You: A Carpenters Christmas Tribute
Singer Lisa Rock and her 6-piece backing band are keeping The Carpenters' holiday traditions alive and bringing their unforgettable Christmas songs to the stage.

12/3 Lunasa: Irish Solstice Celebration
Lúnasa is a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped form the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade.

12/4 MET Opera in HD: Eurydice
The ancient Greek myth of Orpheus, who attempts to harness the power of music to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the underworld.

12/4 Changes in Latitudes: Jimmy Buffett Tribute
It's the ultimate beach party that's good clean fun for all ages. Over their sixteen-plus year history, the band has traveled from Maine to Barbados, Cape Cod to Chicago.

12/5 Destination Motown
Delivering the greatest hits by the Temptations, the Jackson Five, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and so many others in this multi-media show.

12/6, Judy Collins: An Evening of Holiday & Hits 7 & 8
The award-winning singer-songwriter is esteemed for her imaginative interpretations of traditional and contemporary folk standards.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Guilty

from Page 1

Arbery’s mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, thanked the crowd gathered for the verdict and said she did not think she would see this day.

“It’s been a long fight. It’s been a hard fight. But God is good,” she said. Of her son, she said, “He will now rest in peace.”

The McMichaels grabbed guns and jumped in a pickup truck to pursue the 25-year-old after seeing him running outside the Georgia port city of Brunswick in early 2020. Bryan joined the pursuit in his own pickup and recorded cellphone video of Travis McMichael fatally shooting Arbery.

The father and son told police they suspected Arbery was a fleeing burglar. But the prosecution argued that the men



Supporters of the Arbery family react Wednesday outside a courtroom in Brunswick, Georgia, as the guilty verdicts are read. SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY

provoked the fatal confrontation and that there was no evidence Arbery had committed crimes in the neighborhood.

“We commend the courage and bravery of this jury to say that what happened on Feb. 23, 2020, to Ahmaud

Arbery — the hunting and killing of Ahmaud Arbery — it was not only morally wrong but legally wrong, and we are thankful for that,” said Latonia Hines, Cobb County executive assistant district attorney. Prosecutor Linda

Dunikoski added: “The jury system works in this country, and when you present the truth to people and they see it, they will do the right thing.”

Travis McMichael’s attorneys said both he and his father feel that they did the right thing, and that they believed the video would help their case. But they also said the McMichaels regret that Arbery got killed.

“I can tell you honestly, these men are sorry for what happened to Ahmaud Arbery,” attorney Jason Sheffield said. “They are sorry he’s dead. They are sorry for the tragedy that happened because of the choices they made to go out there and try to stop him.”

They planned to appeal. Bryan’s attorney, Kevin Gough, said his team was “disappointed with the verdict, but we respect it”

He planned to file new legal motions for Bryan after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley did not immediately schedule a sentencing date, saying that he wanted to give both sides time to prepare.

Though prosecutors did not argue that racism motivated the killing, federal authorities have charged them with hate crimes, alleging that they chased and killed Arbery because he was Black. That case is scheduled to go to trial in February.

The mostly white jury received the case around midday Tuesday.

Soon after returning to court Wednesday morning, the jury sent a note to the judge asking to view two versions of the shooting video — the original and one that investigators enhanced to reduce shadows — three

times apiece.

Jurors returned to the courtroom to see the videos and listen again to the 911 call one of the defendants made from the bed of a pickup truck about 30 seconds before the shooting.

On the 911 call the jury reviewed, Greg McMichael tells an operator: “I’m out here in Satilla Shores. There’s a Black male running down the street.”

He then starts shouting, apparently as Arbery is running toward the McMichael’s idling truck with Bryan’s truck coming up behind him: “Stop right there! Damn it, stop! Travis!” Gunshots can be heard a few seconds later.

The graphic video death leaked online two months later, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case, quickly arresting the three men.

Shopping

from Page 1

industry advisor for the NPD Group. “We expect the consumer’s sustained propensity to spend will carry through the traditional November and December shopping period.”

Nearly one-third of U.S. consumers have already made holiday purchases earlier than planned this year, NPD said.

The National Retail Federation has forecast that holiday sales in November and December will grow between 8.5% and 10.5% over 2020, to as much as \$859 billion, setting records for growth and the amount spent. Consumers on average are expected to spend nearly \$1,000.

A spokeswoman for Westfarms mall in West Hartford said the traditional one-day shopping event has “definitely morphed into the Black Friday season.” Black Friday sales began earlier than before and are expected to stretch into early December.

Black Friday was once the year’s No. 1 shopping craze, beginning just as the Thanksgiving dinner table was cleared and consuming retailers from early Friday morning until late at night. The calendar-imposed boundaries are now blurred, ushering in a stretch of shopping that includes Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.

Cyber Monday remains the biggest online shopping day of the year with \$11.3 billion, a new record, Adobe said. For the season beginning Nov. 1 and ending Dec. 31 online sales will hit \$207 billion, a 10% year-over-year increase and establishing a new record, it said.

And with many stores closed Thanksgiving, shoppers are expected to spend between \$5.1 billion and \$5.9 billion online on the holiday,



Shoppers walk through Westfarms Mall on the eve of Thanksgiving in West Hartford. The National Retail Federation has forecast that holiday sales in November and December will grow between 8.5% and 10.5% over 2020, to as much as \$859 billion, setting records for growth and the amount spent. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

a new record, Adobe said.

Consumers have spent \$72.2 billion online from Nov. 1 to Nov. 23, up 19.8% year-over-year, according to Adobe. The strong growth shows that many consumers began shopping early, it said.

“This surging demand also highlights that even with persistent out-of-stock messages, shoppers are getting comfortable with buying something that may not have been at the top of their list,” Adobe said.

Nearly 2 million more shoppers than last year are expected to buy gifts from

Thanksgiving through Cyber Monday, according to an annual survey by the National Retail Federation and Prosper Insights & Analytics. An estimated 158.3 million shoppers are up from 156.6 million last year but still below the 165.3 million in 2019 before the pandemic.

Consumers are downcast about their financial future, but are setting aside their negative outlook for Christmas, according to the University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers. Citing inflation and falling living standards, consumers expressed less

optimism in the November survey than at any other time in the past decade “about prospects for their own finances as well as for the overall economy.”

However, “consumers have a strong desire to resume more normal holiday gatherings with family and friends and to use their accumulated savings to fund their celebrations and gifts despite higher prices,” the survey said.

Ed Dunn, toy manager at Toy Chest in West Hartford, said Small Business Saturday is bigger than Black Friday,

which he called a “good day, but not an enormous day.”

With some items on order for six to eight months, supply chain problems have cropped up, “but nothing that’s earth shattering,” he said. Larger items have been canceled as “vendors have let us down a little bit,” he said. He did not identify the items.

The National Federation of Independent Business, a small-business advocacy group, said the challenges of the pandemic haven’t gone away.

“They have just morphed as the pandemic progressed,”

it said.

Small-business owners were ordered shut last year by the state to halt the spread of COVID-19, leading to lost revenue and profit and forcing layoffs. They now struggle to fill jobs and cope with supply chain disruptions that make it difficult to sell products and services in a timely manner, NFIB said.

Still, Dunn said he has high hopes for the shopping season.

“The best thing that could happen is my business is out of control and I run out of everything,” he said.

Vaccines

from Page 1

state’s 102,447 employees. Of Connecticut’s private schools, 93% of all employees are fully vaccinated, just over 11,000 of the 12,152-person workforce.

But some private and parochial schools — which tend to have much smaller staffs — trail public schools when it comes staff vaccinations. Of the 15 schools with the state’s lowest vaccination rates, all are nonpublic schools with staff vaccination rates below 75% and fewer than 150 employees.

The data on staff vaccination rates are compiled in a survey conducted by the state Department of

Education. Under an executive order released by Gov. Ned Lamont in late August, educators and staff at public schools, private schools and early childhood centers in Connecticut had to be vaccinated by Sept. 27 or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing.

At some schools, the absence of staff vaccinations is especially stark. Faith Preparatory School in Milford reported a 37% vaccination rate; at Laurel Oaks Adventist School in Hamden, only a quarter of staff are fully vaccinated. At Heritage Baptist Academy in Wallingford, just 7% of staff are fully vaccinated.

A representative for Faith Preparatory School declined to comment for this story. Administrators at Laurel

Oaks Adventist School and Heritage Baptist Academy could not be reached.

Though representing a small portion of the state’s schools, the vaccination rates at those schools are a far cry from the statewide rate of fully vaccinated residents, which at 71.7% is among the highest in the nation, trailing only Vermont, Rhode Island and Maine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Where there are schools that have lower rates, that is of course a concern to us,” Josh Geballe, Gov. Ned Lamont’s chief operating officer, said. “And that’s one of the reasons we collected this data and published it, to provide transparency

and hopefully a little extra encouragement for some that are a little lower.”

The state Department of Public Health and Department of Education are continuing to collaborate on the vaccination of school staff, including through health and safety webinars with school leaders, public health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani said Tuesday. Schools can also partner with their local health departments, state mobile clinics or medical providers to boost staff vaccination rates.

Juthani noted that only four private schools have vaccination rates below 50% and that the vast majority of private schools have vaccination rates of at least 80%.

Still, the state data — which for each school provides only an overall vaccination rate and a generalized range of the school’s number of employees, to “protect the confidentiality of employee vaccination status” — reveals a marked contrast between small, private schools and large, public school districts.

Of the 50 schools with the lowest staff vaccination rates in the state, only a dozen are public; the vast majority of the schools with the lowest rates are private schools with fewer than 150 employees. By contrast, all 17 of the state’s public school districts with between 750 to 999 employees have vaccination rates of at least 90%, as do the vast majority of public

school districts with 500 to 749 employees and those with 300 to 499 employees.

Among the state’s public school districts, 84% reported staff vaccination rates of 90% or above, compared to 75% of nonpublic schools. In context, the public school workforce is about nine times larger than the private school workforce.

“Access to the vaccine has never been easier, and ample supply is available,” Juthani said. “The more school staff who are vaccinated, the more we can ensure safe, in-person learning for all our students.”

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GOP blames Biden for virus surge

Many hit on a new line of attack, while fighting mandates

By Jonathan Weisman
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Over more than eight hours last Thursday night and into Friday morning, Rep. Kevin McCarthy hit on many issues as he spoke on the House floor in an unsuccessful effort to thwart House passage of President Joe Biden's social safety net and climate change bill.

But among his most audacious assertions was that Biden was to blame for the country's failure to quell the pandemic.

McCarthy, R-Calif., used this line of attack even as members of his own Republican Party have spent months flouting mask ordinances and blocking the president's vaccine mandates, and the party's base has undermined vaccination drives while rallying around those who refuse the vaccine. Intensive care units and morgues have been strained to capacity by the unvaccinated, a demographic dominated by those who voted last year for former President Donald Trump.

As of mid-September, 90% of adult Democrats had been vaccinated, compared with 58% of adult Republicans.

Yet McCarthy, the House Republican leader, pressed his point: "I took President Biden at his word; I took him at his word when he said he was going to get COVID under control," he declared in the dead of night. "Unfortunately, more Americans have died this year than last



Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy has said that President Joe Biden has failed to tame the pandemic. JIM WATSON/GETTY-APP

year under COVID."

As cases surge once again in some parts of the country, Republicans have hit on a new line of attack: The president has failed on a central campaign promise — to tame the pandemic that his predecessor systematically downplayed. Democrats are incredulous, dismissing the strategy as another strand of spaghetti thrown at the wall.

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates hit back hard: "If COVID-19 and inflation had lobbyists to help them kill more American jobs, Kevin McCarthy would be their favorite member of Congress," he said. "He is actively undermining the fight against

COVID, which is driving inflation."

Chris Taylor, a spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, called House Republicans "COVID's biggest promoter" for "recklessly hand-waving lifesaving vaccines" and for promoting ivermectin, an anti-parasitic drug falsely said to cure COVID-19.

As of Wednesday, nearly 775,000 Americans have died from the virus and over 48 million have been infected, according to Johns Hopkins University.

But Republican strategists and pollsters say Democrats should not be so quick to brush off the criticism, even

if many COVID-19-related deaths this year were among those who ignored Biden's entreaties to get vaccinated.

"McCarthy's first hit on Biden is a competence hit — that he sold himself to voters as the guy who can make a difference in the fight against COVID, yet more Americans are dying," said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster who has surveyed voters on the issue. "The bottom line is that Republicans have always been more focused on the economic impact of the pandemic, and now we're seeing independents and swing voters expressing concern about those impacts as well: supply chain, inflation, jobs, stores not being open or having what they need."

He added, "There is a sense that Biden's presidency is falling short on its promises."

The Thanksgiving wave is the latest surprise in a pandemic that is nearing its two-year mark. The nation's 14-day average of new infections is up 25% to more than 94,000 new cases a day, with the upper Midwest again the hottest of hot spots.

At the same time, the efficacy of the coronavirus vaccines is holding, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Unvaccinated people are 5.8

times as likely to test positive than fully vaccinated people and 14 times as likely to die if infected.

The partisan gap in infection and vaccination rates is only slightly narrowing.

The most Republican counties have 2.78 times as many new cases than the most Democratic counties, down from three times as many a month ago, according to Democratic health care analyst Charles Gaba, using data from Johns Hopkins.

The death rate in those Republican counties is nearly six times as high as the death rate in the Democratic counties.

It is unclear whether the pandemic or the vaccine mandates devised to beat it are causing the president's approval ratings to slide.

Newhouse's firm, Public Opinion Strategies, found Biden's overall approval rating for his handling of the pandemic to be a relatively fine 51% in October, down from 69% in April but only from 53% in August.

But in the suburbs, where the 2020 presidential race was won, the president's approval rating on the pandemic has slipped since August from 51% to 45%. And among white men, the slide is more pronounced, from 58% in April to 43% in August and 32% in October.

Republican lawmakers are continuing to try to block vaccine mandates at the local, state and federal levels.

But White House officials say the president has made substantive progress toward ending the pandemic.

At this time last year, 250 million adults were not vaccinated. Now about 47 million remain without inoculation.

Americans hit the road again for Thanksgiving

Many overlooking rise in virus cases, higher gas prices

By David Koenig
Associated Press

DALLAS — Determined to reclaim Thanksgiving traditions that were put on pause last year by the pandemic, millions of Americans are loading up their cars or piling onto planes to gather again with friends and family.

The number of air travelers this week is expected to approach or even exceed pre-pandemic levels, and auto club AAA predicts that 48.3 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday period — an increase of nearly 4 million over last year despite sharply higher gasoline prices.

Many feel emboldened by the fact that nearly 200 million Americans are now fully vaccinated. But it also means brushing aside concerns about a resurgent virus at a time when the U.S. is now averaging nearly 100,000 new infections a day and hospitals in Arizona, Colorado, Michigan and Minnesota are seeing alarming increases in patients.

The seven-day daily aver-

age of new reported cases up nearly 30% in the last two weeks through Tuesday, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says unvaccinated people should not travel, although it is unclear whether that recommendation is having any effect.

More than 2.2 million travelers streamed through airport checkpoints last Friday, the busiest day since the pandemic devastated travel early last year.

From Friday through Tuesday, the number of people flying in the U.S. was more than double the same days last year and less than 9% lower than the same days in 2019.

At Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, Christian Titus was heading to visit extended family in Canada. Titus says he's spent much of the pandemic inside but is willing to risk flying on a crowded airplane because he misses being around his family. He got a booster shot to increase his protection.

"My mental health does better by being around my family during these times," he said. "Yeah, it's dangerous. But you love these people, so you do what

you can to stay safe around them."

Meka Starling and her husband were excited for many members of their extended family to meet their 2-year-old son, Kaiden, for the first time at a big Thanksgiving gathering in Linden, New Jersey.

"We've put pictures on Facebook so a lot of them have seen pictures of him, but to get to actually touch him and talk to him, I'm excited about it," said Starling, 44, of West Point, Mississippi.

Airlines are hoping to avoid a repeat of the massive flight cancellations — more than 2,300 apiece — that dogged Southwest and American Airlines at different times last month.

The breakdowns started with bad weather in one part of the country and spun out of control.

In the past, airlines had enough pilots, flight attendants and other workers to recover from many disruptions within a day or two.

They are finding it harder to bounce back now, however, because they are stretched thin after pushing thousands of employees to quit when travel collapsed last year.

American, Southwest, Delta and United have all



Travelers board a bus to a rental car facility Tuesday at Denver International Airport. As of Tuesday, gas prices are up more than 60% from Thanksgiving in 2020. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

been hiring lately, which gives the airlines and industry observers hope that flights will stay on track this week.

"The airlines are prepared for the holidays," said Helene Becker, an airlines analyst for Cowen, a financial services firm. "They cut back the number of flights, the industry has enough pilots, they are putting more flight attendants through their (training) academies, and they are paying flight attendants a premium — what I'm going

to call hazardous-duty pay — to encourage people not to blow off work."

By midday Wednesday on the East Coast, airlines in the U.S. had canceled only about 70 flights, according to FlightAware. The Federal Aviation Administration reported very few airports affected by significant delays.

Casey Murray, president of the pilots' union at Southwest, said things seemed to be going reasonably well by late morning Wednesday. He said he had not received

any reports of major incidents involving unruly passengers for several days.

"I don't think anything is going to make video, which is good," Murray said. "That's just another layer of stress, complexity and fatigue on top of everything else that is going on."

For holiday travelers going by car, the biggest pain is likely to be higher pump prices. The nationwide average for gasoline Tuesday was \$3.40 a gallon, according to AAA, up more than 60% from last Thanksgiving.



Shalanda Young, if confirmed by the Senate, would be the first Black woman to lead the OMB. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President nominates women of color to run budget office

By Darlene Superville
and Alexandra Jaffe
Associated Press

NANTUCKET, Mass. — President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he is nominating Shalanda Young to lead the White House budget office and Nani Coloretto to serve as Young's deputy.

If confirmed by the Senate, Young would be the first Black woman to lead the Office of Management and Budget, while

Coloretto, who is Filipino American, would become one of the highest-ranking Asian Americans in the Biden administration.

It would be the first time that two women of color will lead the agency, which helps the president develop an annual budget and monitors how tax dollars are spent.

"Today it's my honor to nominate two extraordinary, history-making women to lead the Office of Management and Budget," Biden said in a video announce-

ment released Wednesday while he spends the Thanksgiving holiday on Nantucket island in Massachusetts.

Young has served as acting director of the office for much of the year.

Biden's first nominee for the director's position, Neera Tanden, faced bipartisan criticism for her previous attacks on lawmakers, and she ultimately withdrew from consideration.

Biden said Young has "continued to impress me" during her time as acting

director.

Young faces her own Senate confirmation vote, but she was initially confirmed for the acting director's role in March with nearly two-thirds support and the backing of multiple Republicans. As the former staff director of the House Appropriations Committee, Young had the support of top Democratic leaders, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi, in a statement issued Wednesday, said

Young's nomination is "well-deserved."

Coloretto would join the administration from the Urban Institute think tank, where she is a senior vice president.

Biden called on the Senate to vote quickly to confirm them for the posts.

The head of the OMB is tasked with putting together the administration's budget and overseeing a wide range of logistical and regulatory issues across the federal government.

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WORLD & NATION

Stepping up for a say in fed civil rights probe

Residents say they have Minneapolis police tales to share

By Mohamed Ibrahim Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Terrance Jackson remembers driving down Lake Street in 2002 when he saw police arresting his cousin for driving with an invalid license. When he pulled over and offered to take his cousin's car home to keep it from being towed, things went badly.

One officer grabbed his hand and bent it back “to try to get me to react,” Jackson said. When his shoe came off as he was being restrained, another officer threw it across the parking lot.

Jackson, 63, is one of more than 1,000 people who have recounted their run-ins with Minneapolis police to activist groups that plan to share their stories with U.S. Justice Department officials conducting a civil rights investigation into the police force. The effort is aimed at making sure community members have a say in the probe launched the day after former officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd.

Investigators are looking into whether Minneapolis police have shown a “pattern or practice” of policing that is unlawful or unconstitutional. They are also examining the police department's use of force, including against protesters, its treatment of people suffering from behavioral health issues, its systems of accountability and whether officers have engaged in discriminatory policing.

The inquiry could lead to a consent decree under which the department would be legally required to make certain changes.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment on the civil rights probe's progress or say how



Terrance Jackson poses last month in Minneapolis where he has recounted a 2002 encounter with the Minneapolis Police Department as part of a civil rights investigation. JIM MONE/AP

much weight investigators might place on the civilian accounts that groups provide them, because the probe is ongoing.

But a former Justice Department official, Christy Lopez, said such accounts can help steer investigations. And those helping gather the civilian accounts say they think the stories will make it hard for investigators to ignore the abuse.

“It's one thing to see things in a document. It's another thing for someone to tell you, ‘This is what happened to me,’ or ‘This is what the police did to me,’” said Michelle Gross, a member of one of the groups, Communities United Against Police Brutality.

“That kind of information puts a face to the problem, and it also shows the pattern,” she said.

Associated Press submitted a records request to the police department seeking information on Jackson's 2002 encounter with offi-

cers, but a spokesman said the department had no record of the event.

The Justice Department investigation wasn't affected by the campaign for a ballot initiative that Minneapolis voters rejected in early November to replace the city's police department with a reimagined public safety agency.

A state investigation remains ongoing.

Pattern-or-practice investigations became a tool to combat police misconduct in the 1990s, when the acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King sparked riots in the city and protests across the country. After an independent commission determined King's assault was ultimately due to institutional failure within the Los Angeles Police Department, Congress authorized the attorney general to investigate whether “a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers” was violating

people's civil rights.

From the first such investigation in Pittsburgh in 1997, through 2016, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division conducted nearly 70 formal probes of police departments nationwide resulting in 40 reform agreements, according to agency data.

The Minneapolis probe was the first of three Justice Department investigations of local law enforcement launched during the Biden administration. It is also investigating policing in Louisville, Kentucky, following the death of Breonna Taylor and in Phoenix over excessive force allegations.

If investigators find a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing in Minneapolis, federal and city officials will negotiate required changes, or a consent decree. A federally appointed monitor oversees progress and reports to a federal judge. Insufficient progress or failure to follow the decree could result in the

federal government taking control of the department.

It could look similar to the agreement between the Justice Department and the city of Ferguson, Missouri, that followed the 2014 killing of Michael Brown, a Black teenager, by a white police officer. The agreement changed the Ferguson police force's policies on the use of force, body-worn cameras, searches and seizures, and responses to protests.

Lopez, who led the group within the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division that conducted pattern-or-practice investigations from 2010 to 2017, said stories from community members can help direct investigators toward particular officers, units, tactics or types of interactions. The number of complaints and consistency between them can alert investigators to patterns of unlawful policing that only community members would experience, and they can then go verify those accounts with documentation from the city such as arrest records and police bodycam footage, she said.

That proved true in Ferguson when accounts from members of the public helped Lopez's team identify issues within the municipal court system, which was also part of the ensuing agreement.

“In Ferguson, if you had gone in there and just looked at lethal shootings and use of force, because that was what happened to Michael Brown, you would have focused on that,” she said. “But in talking with people, that's where we really learned about the depth of the concern about fines and fees, and how they were using the courts to violate people's rights. We would have missed that entirely if we hadn't talked to people and heard their stories.”

Iris Roley, a founder of the Cincinnati Black United Front, said her community played a significant

role in crafting the agreement between their city and federal officials after the killings of Jeffrey Irons and Roger Ownesby Jr. by Cincinnati officers in 2000. Roley said her group collected more than 400 accounts of police brutality and misconduct from members of the community who were brave enough to come forward despite fearing retaliation.

“What we did when we listened to our community — the Black community — we took complaints and turned complaints into training, and we took training and turned that into policy,” she said.

Lopez said investigators aim to complete inquiries and issue findings within a year, but that it varies from case to case, with Ferguson taking six months but others taking years. Though it may take another year to negotiate the consent decree with Minneapolis and get it entered into court, Lopez said investigators are aware of the urgency to deliver their findings and kickstart the improvement process.

“There's always tension between the fierce urgency of now — which is a very, very real thing — and wanting to use this opportunity you have to learn everything you can about a department because you know that's how you develop the best remedy to fix the problem,” she said.

Gross' group in Minneapolis has gathered more than 1,400 accounts. In some cases, activists are asking people to share their stories directly with investigators.

Jackson said he hopes his story and others will help bring much-needed change to the city's police force.

“When I was growing up in north Minneapolis, we had officers in our community and we played with their kids, they got nothing but respect. They knew everybody's family, they were from the neighborhood,” he said. “It's a whole different thing now.”



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WORLD & NATION

A strange relationship in Afghanistan

Amid doubt, Shiites seek protection from Taliban against IS

By Lee Keath
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Outside a Shiite shrine in Kabul, four armed Taliban fighters stood guard as worshippers filed in for Friday prayers. Alongside them was a guard from Afghanistan’s mainly Shiite Hazara minority, an automatic rifle slung over his shoulder.

It was a sign of the strange, new relationship brought by the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan in August. The Taliban, Sunni hard-liners who for decades targeted the Hazaras as heretics, are now their only protection against a more brutal enemy: the Islamic State group.

Sohrab, the Hazara guard at the Abul Fazl al-Abbas Shrine, said he gets along fine with the Taliban guards. “They even pray in the mosque sometimes,” he said, giving only his first name for security reasons.

Not everyone feels so comfortable.

Syed Aqil, a Hazara visiting the shrine with his wife and 8-month-old daughter, was disturbed that many Taliban still wear their traditional garb — the look of a jihadi insurgent — rather than a police uniform.

“We can’t even tell if they are Taliban or Daesh,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Since seizing power, the Taliban have presented themselves as more moderate, compared with their first rule in the 1990s when they violently repressed the Hazaras and other ethnic groups. Courting international recognition, they vow to protect the Hazaras as a show of their acceptance of the country’s minorities.

But many Hazaras still deeply distrust the insur-



A boy gazes at a rifle held by a guard belonging to the Shiite Hazara minority Nov. 10 outside a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan. **BRAM JANSSEN/AP**

gents-turned-rulers, who are overwhelmingly ethnic Pashtu, and are convinced they will never accept them as equals in Afghanistan. Hazara community leaders say they have met repeatedly with Taliban leadership, asking to take part in the government, only to be shunned. Hazaras complain individual fighters discriminate against them and fear it’s only a matter of time before the Taliban revert to repression.

“In comparison to their previous rule, the Taliban are a little better,” said Mohammed Jawad Gawhari, a Hazara cleric who runs an organization helping the poor.

“The problem is that there is not a single law. Every individual Talib is their own law right now,” he said. “So people live in fear of them.”

The Taliban initially confiscated weapons that Hazaras had used to guard some of their own mosques

in Kabul. But after devastating IS bombings of Shiite mosques in Kandahar and Kunduz provinces in October, the Taliban returned the weapons in most cases, Gawhari and other community leaders said. The Taliban also provide their own fighters as guards for some mosques during Friday prayers.

“We are providing a safe and secure environment for everyone, especially the Hazaras,” said Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. “They should be in Afghanistan. Leaving the country is not good for anyone.”

The Hazaras’ turn to Taliban protection shows how terrified the community is of the Islamic State group, which they say aims to exterminate them. In past years, IS has attacked the Hazaras more ruthlessly than the Taliban ever did, unleashing bombings against Hazara schools,

hospitals and mosques, killing hundreds.

IS is also the Taliban’s enemy, frequently attacking Taliban forces.

In Dashti Barchi, the sprawling district of west Kabul dominated by Hazaras, many were skeptical the Taliban will ever change.

Marzieh Mohammadi, whose husband was killed five years ago in fighting with the Taliban, said she’s afraid every time she sees them patrolling.

“How can they protect us? We can’t trust them. We feel like they are Daesh,” she said.

The differences are partly religious. But Hazaras, who make up an estimated 10% of Afghanistan’s population of nearly 40 million, are also ethnically distinct and speak a variant of Farsi rather than Pashtu. They have a long history of being oppressed by the Pashtu majority, some of whom stereotype them as

intruders.

Aqil said that when he tried to go to a police station for a document, the Taliban guard only spoke Pashtu and impatiently slammed the gates in his face. He had to come back later with a Pashtu-speaking colleague.

“This sort of situation makes me lose hope in the future,” he said. “They don’t know us. They are not broadminded to accept other communities. They act as if they are the owners of this country.”

Frictions in the Hazaras’ central Afghanistan heartland have raised concerns. In Daikundi province, Taliban fighters killed 11 Hazara soldiers and two civilians, including a teenage girl, in August, according to Amnesty International. Taliban officials also expelled Hazara families from several Daikundi villages after accusing them of living on land that didn’t belong to them.

After an uproar from Hazaras, further expulsions were halted, Gawhari and other community leaders said.

The international community is pressing the Taliban to form a government that reflects Afghanistan’s ethnic, religious and political spectrum, including women. The Taliban’s Cabinet is comprised entirely of men from their own ranks.

The highest level Hazara in the administration is a deputy health minister. A few Hazaras hold provincial posts, but they long ago joined the Taliban insurgency and adopted their hard-line ideology. Few in the Hazara community recognize them.

Ali Akbar Jamshidi, a former parliament member from Daikundi province, said the Hazara want to be brought into the Cabinet and intelligence and security agencies.



In 2021, over 27 million people, or 8.4% of U.S. residents, reported having moved in the past year. Above, people finish loading belongings into a truck. **PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP 2020**

Pandemic did not result in a great migration, figures show

By Mike Schneider
Associated Press

Contrary to popular belief, there has been no great migration in the U.S. during the coronavirus pandemic.

New figures released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau show that the proportion of people who moved over the past year fell to its lowest level in the 73 years that it has been tracked, in contradiction to popular anecdotes that people left cities en masse to escape COVID-19 restrictions or in search of more bucolic lifestyles.

“Millennials living in New York City do not make up the world,” joked Thomas Cooke, a demographic consultant in Connecticut. “My millennial daughter’s friends living in Williamsburg, dozens of them came home. It felt like the world had suddenly moved, but in reality, this is not surprising at all.”

In 2021, more than 27 million people, or 8.4% of U.S. residents, reported having moved in the past year, according to the Current Population

Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

By comparison, 9.3% of U.S. residents moved from 2019 to 2020. Three decades ago, that figure was 17%.

Besides giving rise to shelter-in-place restrictions, the pandemic may have forced people to postpone events such as marriages or having babies that often lead to moves. But the decline is part of a decadeslong migration decline in the U.S., said William Frey, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution.

“These numbers show a lot of people didn’t move or moved at a slower rate,” Frey said. “But it’s a longer-term trend.”

The one uptick in mobility patterns last year took place in longer-distance moves, from state to state, compared to moves within a state or county. Those 4.3 million residents who moved to another state may have done so because of the pandemic, Frey said.

Demographic expert Andrew Beveridge used change-of-address data to show that while people moved out of New York, particularly in well-heeled

neighborhoods, at the height of the pandemic, those neighborhoods recouped their numbers months later.

“The same thing happened during the financial crisis. Nobody moved. Nobody got married. Nobody had kids,” said Beveridge, a sociology professor at Queens College of the City University of New York.

Other factors contributing to Americans staying put have been an aging population, the ability to telecommute for work and rising home prices and rents that kept some would-be movers in place, demographers said.

Mobility in the U.S. has been on a downward slide since 1985 when 20% of U.S. residents moved. That was an era when Baby Boomers were young adults, beginning careers, getting married and starting families. In comparison, millennials, who today are in the same age range as their baby boomer cohorts were in the mid-1980s, are stuck in place due to high housing costs and underemployment, according to an analysis Frey did last year.

Infrastructure bill unleashes funds to address aging dams

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — States will soon be flooded with federal money to address a pent-up need to repair, improve or remove thousands of aging dams across the U.S., including some that could inundate towns or neighborhoods if they fail.

The roughly \$3 billion for dam-related projects pales in comparison to the tens of billions of dollars going to roads, rails and high-speed internet in the \$1 trillion infrastructure plan signed Nov. 15 by President Joe Biden.

But it’s a lot more than dam projects had been getting.

The money could give “a good kick-start to some of these upgrades that need to be done to make the dams as safe as possible,” said David Griffin, manager of Georgia’s Safe Dams Program and president-elect of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

The U.S. has more than 90,000 dams, averaging over 50 years old. An Associated Press analysis in 2019 identified nearly 1,700 dams in 44 states and Puerto Rico deemed poor or unsatisfactory and categorized as high-hazard — meaning their failure likely would result in a deadly flood. The actual number almost certainly is higher, because some states declined to provide complete data for their dams.

Though many large dams are maintained by federal or state agencies, most of the nation’s dams are privately owned. That makes fixing them a challenge because regulators have little leverage over dam owners who don’t have the money to make repairs or simply neglect the needed fixes.

Over the past decade, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than \$400



Area officials monitor a potential dam and levee failure at a subdivision in Yazoo County, Mississippi. **DAVID BATTALY/MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY 2020**

million for projects involving dams, mostly to repair damage from natural disasters. But until a few years ago, there was no national program focused solely on improving the thousands of dams overseen by state and local entities.

FEMA’s Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program has divvied up \$31.6 million among 36 participating states from 2019-2021. That amount, appropriated by Congress, was barely one-fifth of what had been authorized under a 2016 federal law.

The infrastructure bill pumps \$585 million into the program for hazardous dams, including \$75 million for their removal. Because of administrative requirements, FEMA said the new money likely won’t start flowing to states before the 2023 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 2022.

Repairing and modernizing all 14,343 high-hazard dams not owned by the federal government could cost more than \$20 billion, according to an estimate by the dam safety association.

“The program is not

really intended to fix all of them, but this will definitely help to fix some of the worst of those,” said Mark Ogden, a former Ohio dam safety official who is now a technical specialist at the association.

The legislation also includes \$148 million for FEMA to distribute to state dam safety offices — a significant increase over the \$6 million to \$7 million annually that has been divided among states. Every state except Alabama has a dam safety program, but many are underfunded and understaffed, creating a backlog of work.

The bill also includes about \$750 million that could fund improvements at hydroelectric dams or retrofit existing dams to start producing energy. That includes a new grant program capped at \$5 million a year per facility.

The funding in the infrastructure bill “is just a down payment,” said LeRoy Coleman, spokesman for the National Hydropower Association. “We need transformational change for more clean energy and for healthier rivers.”

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

German parties seal deal as Scholz poised to be next chancellor

From news services

BERLIN — Germany’s would-be governing parties vowed Wednesday to modernize Europe’s biggest economy and step up efforts against climate change as they announced an agreement that leaves center-left leader Olaf Scholz poised to replace longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel within weeks. The coalition will shift Germany’s leadership a bit to the left after 16 years under the center-right Merkel, who gained plaudits for her handling of a series of crises over the years. Scholz signaled that the country’s foreign policy would not change much.

Scholz’s Social Democrats, the environmentalist Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats are set to take the reins just as Germany faces its biggest surge of coronavirus infections in the pandemic so far. Scholz opened the event by promising that “the new government will do everything necessary to bring us through this time well.” The three-party alliance is a first for a German government. Scholz has been Merkel’s finance minister and vice chancellor since 2018 in the outgoing “grand coalition” of Germany’s traditional big parties, in which his party was the junior partner. Merkel didn’t run for a fifth term, and her Christian Democrats will head into opposition after a disastrous campaign that ended with defeat in Germany’s Sept. 26 election.

Israel-Morocco pact: Israel and Morocco signed a landmark agreement Wednesday that lays the foundation for security cooperation, intelligence sharing and future arms sales. The memorandum of understanding was the

centerpiece of a visit this week by Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz to Morocco, which established formal relations with Israel last year as part of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords. Gantz’s trip is the first official visit by an Israeli defense minister to one of the Arab states that normalized ties under the accords. In a statement, Gantz said that the agreement was “very significant and will allow us to exchange ideas, enter joint projects and enable Israeli military exports here.” The agreement was signed during a meeting between Gantz and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Loudiyi in Rabat, with military attaches and two Israeli parliament members in attendance.

Migrant boat capsizes: At least 31 migrants bound for Britain died Wednesday when their boat sank in the English Channel, in what France’s interior minister called the biggest tragedy involving migrants on the dangerous crossing to date. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said 34 people were believed to have been on the boat. Authorities found 31 bodies — including those of five women and a young girl — and two survivors, he said. One person appeared to still be missing. The nationalities of the travelers was not immediately known. More people fleeing conflict or poverty are risking the perilous journey in small, unseaworthy craft from France, hoping to get asylum or better opportunities in Britain. A joint French-British search operation for survivors was ongoing late Wednesday. Four suspected traffickers were arrested on suspicion



Mourners light candles to pay respects Wednesday at the North Macedonian Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria. A day earlier, 45 tourists, including 12 children, were killed in a fiery bus crash in western Bulgaria. The cause of the crash has not been determined. Bulgaria held a national day of mourning, while North Macedonia started a three-day period. **VALENTINA PETROVA/AP**

of being linked to the sunken boat, Darmanin said.

Sweden PM quits: Hours after being tapped as Sweden’s first female prime minister, Magdalena Andersson resigned Wednesday after suffering a budget defeat in parliament and her coalition partner the Greens left the two-party minority government. The government’s own budget proposal was rejected in favor of one presented by the opposition that includes the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats. Sweden’s third-largest party is rooted in a neo-Nazi movement. The vote was 154-143 in favor of the opposition’s budget proposal. Andersson, leader of the Social Democratic party, decided it was best to step down from the post more than seven hours after she made history by becoming the first woman to lead the country. “For me, it is about respect, but I also do not want to lead

a government where there may be grounds to question its legitimacy,” Andersson told a news conference. Andersson, who was finance minister before briefly becoming prime minister, informed parliamentary Speaker Andreas Norlen that she is still interested in leading a Social Democratic one-party government.

Ethiopia crisis: Ethiopia’s Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister has gone to the battlefield, his government announced Wednesday, after the leader said martyrdom might be necessary in the yearlong war with rival fighters approaching the capital. State media showed no images of Abiy Ahmed, a 45-year-old former soldier, and his spokeswoman Billene Seyoum dismissed a request for details on his location as “incredible.” He arrived at the front Tuesday, according to a government spokesman. Tens of thousands of

people have died in the war between Ethiopian federal and allied troops and fighters from the country’s Tigray region. The prospect of the ancient nation breaking apart has alarmed both Ethiopians and observers who fear what would happen to the often turbulent Horn of Africa at large. Countries including France, Germany and Turkey have told their citizens to leave immediately. Abiy was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize just two years ago for sweeping political reforms and for making peace with neighboring Eritrea. **Iran nuclear sites:** The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog warned Wednesday his inspectors are close to being unable to “guarantee” they know what’s going on at all of Iran’s nuclear sites. Rafael Mariano Grossi’s words sharply contrasted with the optimistic tone his Iranian hosts offered the day before. They signal the Islamic Republic’s harder

line as renewed talks over Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers resume next week. They also represent a stark alarm for nuclear nonproliferation experts after Grossi’s trip to Tehran produced no breakthrough to restore its ability to fully monitor its program. **Asteroid defense test:** NASA launched a spacecraft Tuesday night on a mission to smash into an asteroid and test whether it would be possible to knock a speeding space rock off course if one were to threaten Earth. The DART spacecraft, short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test, lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in a \$330 million project with echoes of the Bruce Willis movie “Armageddon.” If all goes well, the boxy, 1,200-pound craft will slam head-on into Dimorphos, an asteroid 525 feet across, at 15,000 mph in September.

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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

US consumer spending rises amid inflation fears

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer spending rebounded by 1.3% in October despite inflation that over the past year has accelerated faster than it has at any point in more than three decades.

The jump in consumer spending last month was double the 0.6% gain in September, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

Consumer prices also rose 5% compared with the same period last year, the fastest 12-month gain since the same stretch ending in November 1990. The surge in prices this year did contribute to the 1.6% rise in spending in November, yet adjusting for inflation, spending was still up 0.7% after a 0.3% inflation-adjusted gain in September.

Personal incomes, which provide the fuel for future spending increases, rose 0.5% in October after having fallen 1% in September, a reflection of a drop in government support payments.

Pay for Americans has been on the rise with companies desperate for workers, and government stimulus checks earlier this

year further padded their bank accounts. That bodes well for a strong holiday season, and U.S. retailers say they're ready after some companies, like Walmart and Target, went to extreme lengths to make sure that their shelves are full despite shortages.

Analysts said the solid increase in spending in October, the first month in the new quarter, was encouraging evidence that overall economic growth, which slowed to an annual rate of 2.1% in the third quarter, will rebound in the current quarter, as long as the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and concerns about inflation don't dampen holiday shopping.

In a cautionary note, the University of Michigan reported that its consumer sentiment index fell 4.3 percentage points to a reading of 67.4 this month, its lowest level since November 2011, weighed down by inflation concerns.

And there are regions in the U.S. experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases that could get worse as families travel the country for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The 5% rise in consumer prices shown in Wednesday's report continued a string of high readings over the past several months as demand outstrips supply, reflecting in

part shortages due to snarled supply chains.

President Joe Biden acted Tuesday to counter spiking gasoline prices by ordering a release from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve, but economists expect that move to have only a minimal effect on the surge in gas prices.

The data released Wednesday, including the peek into what Americans are paying for everyday goods, is preferred by the Federal Reserve because it tracks changes in what people are buying, unlike the consumer price index, which measures a fixed market-basket of goods.

The Fed seeks to conduct its interest-rate policies to achieve annual gains in its preferred price index of around 2%. However, over the past two decades, inflation has perennially failed to reach the Fed's 2% inflation target.

Fed officials at their November meeting announced the start of a reduction in its \$120 billion per month in bond purchases, which the central bank had been making to put downward pressure on long-term interest rates. That marked the Fed's first maneuver to pull back on the massive support it has been providing to the economy.

Jan. 22 shot deadline for all crossing US borders

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will require essential, nonresident travelers crossing U.S. land borders, such as truck drivers, government and emergency response officials, to be fully vaccinated beginning Jan. 22, the administration planned to announce.

A senior administration official said the requirement, which the White House previewed in October, brings the rules for essential travelers in line with those that took effect earlier this month for leisure travelers, when the U.S. reopened its borders to fully vaccinated individuals.

Essential travelers entering by ferry will also be required to be fully vaccinated by the same date, the official said.

The rules pertain to non-U.S. nationals. U.S. citizens and permanent residents may still enter the U.S. regardless of vaccination status, but face additional testing hurdles.

The administration pushed back the requirement for essential travelers by more than two months from when it went into effect Nov. 8 for non-essential visitors to prevent disruptions, particularly among truck drivers who are vital to North American trade.

While most cross-border traffic was shut down in the earliest days of the pandemic, essential travelers have been able to transit unimpeded.

But Norita Taylor, spokeswoman for the trucking group Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, criticized the new requirement, calling it an example of "how unnecessary government mandates can force experienced owner-operators and independent truckers out of business."

About 47 million adults in the U.S. remain unvaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

EU: Virus spike a blow to economy

BRUSSELS — The massive spike in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks is threatening the European Union's recovery from the deep economic slump caused by last year's onset of the pandemic, the bloc's economy chief said Wednesday.

And medical experts warned that the public health situation could get much worse.

Only two weeks ago the EU executive forecast 5% growth in the 19-nation euro-zone for an economy bouncing back from the worst of the pandemic. But EU Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said Wednesday that the upbeat picture was now in doubt again amid rising infections and with restrictions being reintroduced in a growing number of member states.

New home sales up as prices soar

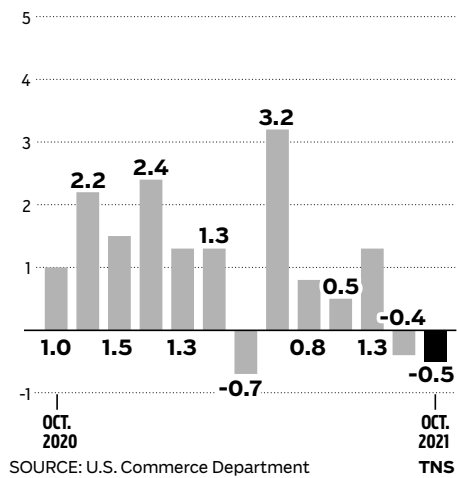
WASHINGTON — U.S. sales of new homes edged up 0.4% last month, coming in below expectations as housing prices continued to climb.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that sales of new single-family homes rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 745,000 last month from 742,000 in September. Economists had expected October new home sales to come in at a 795,000 annual pace. And the September sales rate was revised sharply lower from 800,000.

New home sales were down 23% from a year earlier. The median price of a new home, the point where half the homes sold for more and half for less, rose to a record \$407,700 last month, up nearly 18% from a year earlier.

Manufacturing orders

New orders of durable goods, monthly percent change, seasonally adjusted



Smoke billows from the Conemaugh Generation Station in New Florence, Pennsylvania. Conemaugh and the Keystone Generating Station plan to stop using coal and retire their generation units by the end of 2028. TODD BERKEY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT 2007

Coal's power getting doused

Stringent pollution controls on wastewater resulting in power plant shutdowns

By Michael Rubinkam
Associated Press

Climate change isn't what's driving some U.S. coal-fired power plants to shut down. It's the expense of stricter pollution controls on their wastewater.

Dozens of plants nationwide plan to stop burning coal this decade to comply with tougher federal wastewater guidelines, according to regulatory filings, as the industry continues moving away from the planet-warming fossil fuel to make electricity.

The new wastewater rule requires power plants to clean coal ash and toxic heavy metals, including mercury, from plant wastewater before it is dumped into streams and rivers. The rule is expected to affect 75 coal-fired power plants nationwide, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Those plants had an October deadline to tell their state regulators how they planned to comply, with options that included upgrading their pollution-control equip-

ment or retiring their coal-fired generating units by 2028.

The national impact of the wastewater rule is still coming into focus, but at least 26 plants in 14 states said they will stop burning coal, according to the Sierra Club, which has been tracking state regulatory filings. Twenty-one of the plants intend to shut down, and five indicated they may switch to natural gas, the environmental group said.

The rule will reduce the discharge of pollutants into the nation's waterways by about 386 million pounds annually, according to EPA estimates. It's expected to cost plant operators, collectively, nearly \$200 million per year to implement.

Those that intend to close include two of Pennsylvania's largest coal-fired power plants, Keystone and Conemaugh outside Pittsburgh, which said they will stop using coal and retire all of their generating units by Dec. 31, 2028, regulatory notices show.

The plants opened more than 50 years ago and together employ about 320 full-time workers and 170 contractors. They generate enough power for perhaps 1.5 million homes, according to industry averages for coal plants of their size.

In addition to Pennsylvania, states with power plants that plan to stop using coal by

2028 are Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia, according to Sierra Club data.

Power producers that say they will shutter coal-fired units as a result of the new rule include Atlanta-based Southern Co. and Houston-based NRG. Southern, which operates electric utilities in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, said it will shutter two-thirds of its coal fleet, including units at the nation's two largest coal-fired power plants, Scherer and Bowen, both in Georgia. NRG said it plans to stop burning coal at its domestic plants outside Texas, and install new pollution controls at its two Texas plants.

The electric power sector has spent years transitioning to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas and renewables like wind and solar. Nationwide, about 30% of generating capacity at coal plants has been retired since 2010, according to the Energy Information Administration. (Coal use at power plants is expected to surge more than 20% this year because of sharply higher natural gas prices — the first such increase since 2014 — but the energy agency said it expects that trend to be temporary.)

Samsung plans \$17B chip factory in Texas

By Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

Samsung said it plans to build a \$17 billion semiconductor factory outside of Austin, Texas, amid a global shortage of chips used in phones, cars and other electronic devices.

Samsung said Tuesday that it will start building the plant in Taylor next year and hopes to begin operations in the second half of 2024. The South Korean electronics giant chose the site based on a number of factors, including government incentives and the "readiness and stability" of local infrastructure, said Samsung Vice Chairman Kinam Kim, speaking alongside the Republican Gov. Greg Abbot.

The chip shortage has emerged as both a business obstacle and a serious U.S. national-security concern. Short supplies of semiconductors kicked off by COVID-era shutdowns have hampered production of new vehicles and electronic devices for more than a year. New questions of economic and national security are also at stake since many U.S. companies are dependent on chips produced overseas, particularly in Taiwan, which China has long claimed as its own territory.

"It's a concentration risk, a geopolitical risk" to be so reliant on Taiwan for much of the world's chip production, said Nina Turner, a research analyst at IDC. She said the current shortages will likely subside but there will be a long-term demand for chips

as more and more everyday products rely on them.

Many chipmakers are spreading out their manufacturing operations in response to the shortages, which have taken a toll on sectors from automakers to the video game industry.

"It makes sense for the supply chain to be a bit more diversified geographically," said Angelo Zino, an analyst at CFRA.

Samsung has had a chip plant in Austin since the late 1990s, but this project would be the company's largest investment in the U.S. It said the new facility will boost production of high-tech chips used for 5G mobile communications, advanced computing and artificial intelligence, and also improve supply chain resilience.

BUSINESS



A CSX Transportation locomotive pulls a train of tank cars across a bridge on the Hudson River near Fort Montgomery, New York. **JULIE JACOBSON/AP 2018**

Feds mull giving Trump gas transport rule a second look

By Josh Funk
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Federal regulators have proposed suspending a Trump administration rule that would have allowed railroads to haul liquefied natural gas while they take a closer look at the potential safety risks.

The rule, which was backed by both the natural gas and freight rail industries, had already been on hold because several environmental groups and 14 states filed lawsuits challenging it.

The federal Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said the uncertainty about the rule also kept companies from investing in the specialized rail tank cars that were required, so railroads haven't actually handled any shipments of the flammable and odorless liquid known as LNG since the rule was issued last summer.

The rule would have required enhancements — including a thicker outer tank made of steel with a greater puncture resistance

— to the approved tank car design that, for decades, has been approved for shipments of other flammable cryogenic materials

But in their lawsuit, environmental groups argued the railcars, which have yet to be built, were untested and might not withstand high-speed impacts.

“We don't believe that LNG by rail should have ever been authorized in the first place, so we look forward to the authorization being suspended,” said Bradley Marshall, who is a senior attorney with Earthjustice which filed the lawsuit on behalf of the environmental groups.

States that challenged the rule included California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Washington D.C. was also part of the lawsuit.

The lawsuits have all been put on hold while federal regulators review the rule, which could take until the summer of 2024.

Before the rule was issued last summer, federal

hazardous materials regulations allowed shipments of LNG by truck, but not by rail, except with a special permit.

The move to abandon the rule on rail shipments comes as natural gas prices and exports are surging in the United States. And ongoing court and regulatory battles have slowed development of pipelines that would help deliver the nation's world-leading gas production to markets.

The long-term growth in LNG exports has continued to set records, according to the latest federal figures. U.S. LNG exports averaged 9.6 billion cubic feet per day during the first six months of this year as the economy continued to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

A spokeswoman for the Association of American Railroads trade group defended the rail industry's safety track record.

“Railroads continue to be the safest way to move hazardous materials over land with 99.99% of all hazmat shipment arriving at their destination without incident,” said Jessica Kahanek.

Legal pot growers frustrated by illegal operations in Ore.

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Amanda Metzler, a licensed cannabis grower, has beefed up security around her property and no longer dares to go out after dark because she's afraid of armed cartel members who run illegal marijuana farms in her region — even directly across the street.

Elin Miller, a vineyard owner, said the illegal sites have lured away so many field workers that grape growers and wineries are suffering labor shortages, particularly at harvest time.

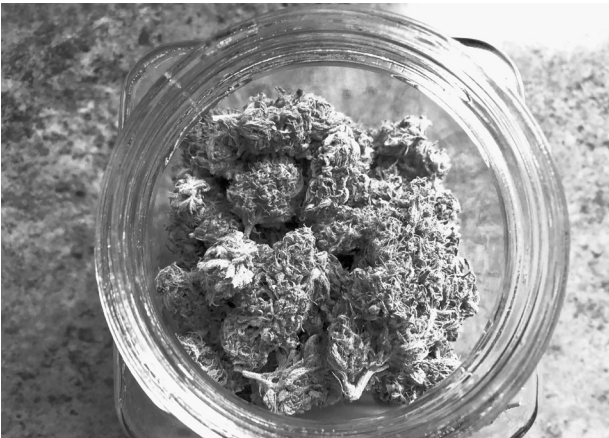
Jackson County Sheriff Nathan Sickler says the crime rate, associated with the thousands of illegal marijuana farms that have sprung up this year in southern Oregon, has gone through the roof.

“We've had stabbings, robberies, thefts, burglaries, homicides, sex crimes, motor vehicle accidents, DUIs, all related to the influx of the marijuana-cannabis industry in our valley,” Sickler said. “It is certainly an issue we deal with on a daily basis here.”

The three were among witnesses who testified last week before a committee of the Oregon Legislature, in an effort to seek help in stemming the proliferation of illegal grow sites in southern Oregon.

The managers of the sites — which were erected last spring primarily in Jackson and Josephine counties near the California state line — have stolen water from rivers, creeks and aquifers during a severe drought and abused immigrant workers, officials have said.

Many illegal marijuana farms are operating under the guise of being legal hemp farms. Steven Marks, director of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, said that tests conducted at



Medical marijuana in a jar on the counter at a dispensary in Sherwood, Oregon. **GILLIAN FLACCUS/AP 2019**

some 400 self-proclaimed hemp sites from July 28 to mid-September showed that most plants had higher amounts of THC, the component that gives cannabis its high, than is legally allowed for hemp.

“So the upshot is 54% of all the tests we successfully conducted were positive and presumptive for marijuana,” Marks said.

Managers of 73 sites told state inspectors to go away, and barred access. Many sites are guarded by gunmen.

Sickler described “an explosion of growth” in marijuana farms.

“We don't have the resources in Jackson County to deal with something like that,” Sickler told the House Interim Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity.

There aren't enough inspectors to test for THC content at each site to determine which are legal and which are not, officials have said. Police said they do not have the capacity to raid all the suspicious sites, with each raid requiring an investigation and warrant.

“First and foremost, we need to allocate significant funding to support law enforcement and code compliance operations,” Rep. Pam Marsh, a Democrat from Ashland in Jackson

County, told the committee. “Jackson County alone has estimated a cost of \$7.3 million a year to enable the county to adequately tackle illegal grows. Josephine County is likely to have a similar need.”

Vineyards are also feeling the impact of the illegal pot farms, said Miller, chair of the Oregon Wine Council.

“We are already facing challenges finding enough workers to support our operations, particularly during peak harvest seasons,” Miller said.

“The unfair and often illegal labor practices of these illegal operations are compounding that issue by paying workers in cash at significantly higher wages than those of us who ... are adhering to all labor laws.”

With tons of marijuana having been recently harvested and the illicit business largely conducted in cash, gunmen are now preying on the illegal farms and marijuana processing sites.

“Crews from eight different states have come to Jackson County to perform home invasion robberies of marijuana farms or individuals associated with marijuana industry with money,” Sickler said.

The illegal farms produce tons of marijuana that is sold outside the state.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, November 25, 2021

DOWN

35,804.38 -9.42

10-YR T-BOND

1.64% -.03

GOLD

\$1,784.10 +6.0

36,320

35,920

35,520

37,000

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 35,804.38

Change: -9.42 (flat)

10 DAYS

36,000

35,000

34,000

33,000

Domestic Indexes

CLOSE

CHG.

YTD

Dow Indus.

35,804.38

-9.42

+16.98%

Dow Trans.

16,826.22

-48.31

+34.54%

Dow Util.

922.85

+19

+6.73%

NYSE Comp.

17,036.81

+28.91

+17.29%

Nasdaq Comp.

15,845.23

+70.09

+22.94%

S&P 500

4,701.46

+10.76

+25.17%

S&P 400

2,870.15

-3.24

+24.43%

Wilshire 5000

48,467.63

+167.57

+22.84%

Russell 2000

2,331.46

+3.60

+18.06%

Commodities

CLOSE

PREV.

YTD

FUELS

Crude Oil (bbl)

78.39

78.50

+61.56%

Natural Gas (mm btu)

5.07

4.97

+99.61%

Unleaded Gas (gal)

2.32

2.34

+62.92%

METALS

Gold (oz)

1,784.10

1,783.50

-5.76%

Silver (oz)

23.50

23.44

-10.77%

Foreign Exchange

ForEx in U.S. \$

U.S. \$ in ForEx

Britain

1.3323

.7506

Canada

.7892

1.2671

China

.1564

6.3923

Euro

1.1199

.8929

Japan

.008659

115.48

Mexico

.046616

21.4521

Money Rates

CLOSE

PREV. WK.

Prime rate

3.25

3.25

3-mo. T-Bill

0.06

0.05

6-mo. T-Bill

0.10

0.06

5-yr T-Note

1.34

1.24

10-yr T-Note

1.64

1.60

30-yr T-Bond

1.98

2.00

Global Markets

CLOSE

CHG.

%CHG.

%YTD

Frankfurt

15,878.39

-58.61

-.37%

+15.74%

London

7,286.32

+19.63

+.27%

+12.78%

Hong Kong

24,685.50

+33.92

+.14%

-9.35%

Nikkei

29,302.66

-471.45

-1.58%

+6.77%

Stocks of Local Interest									
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD %CHG.	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD %CHG.
AT&T Inc (T)	24.47	-.29	-1.49		MetLife Inc (MET)	62.63	-.73	-1.16	+33.4
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	157.80	+7.88	+5.00	+72.1	Micron Tech (MU)	86.21	+.80	+.93	+14.7
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	19.46	-.01	-.05	+23.4	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	337.91	+.23	+.07	+51.9
Amphenol Corp (APH)	84.30	-.50	-.60	...	Nordstrom Inc (JWN)	22.66	-9.27	-41.0	-27.4
Apple Inc (AAPL)	161.94	+.53	+.33	+22.0	Novartis AG (NVS)	81.91	-.76	-.92	-13.3
Apveo Therapeutics (APVO)	11.95	-5.08	-42.5	-67.4	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	326.74	+9.28	+2.9	+150.3
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	52.21	+.20	+.38	+14.9	Ocuphire Pharma Inc (OCUP)	4.14	+.66	+16.0	-36.3
Bank of America (BAC)	47.63	+.13	+.27	+57.1	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	84.46	+.65	+.77	+25.0
Barnes Group (B)	45.93	-.79	-1.7	-9.4	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	21.11	+.52	+2.5	-10.4
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	5.22	+2.59	+49.6	+18.4	Palatin Tech (PTN)	.51	+.17	+33.0	-24.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2323.12	-18.01	-.8	+4.3	Pasithea Therapeutic (KTTA)	3.99	-1.61	-40.3	+12.1
Bridgeline Digital (BLIN)	3.04	+.26	+8.3	+17.8	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	18.73	-.10	-0.5	+44.9
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	56.81	-.64	-1.1	-8.4	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	50.89	-.19	-.4	+38.3
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	92.65	-.99	-1.1	+35.7	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	7.43	-.01	-.1	+20.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.16	+.01	+.5	-6.9	Progenity Inc (PROG)	3.75	-.24	-6.4	-29.4
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	55.69	+.82	+1.5	+47.6	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.33	-.86	-.8	+40.0
Charter Communinc (CHTR)	672.69	-2.05	-.3	+1.7	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.59	+.39	+0.6	+10.8
Cigna Corp (CI)	210.58	-2.66	-1.3	+1.2	Qualigen Therapeut (QLGN)	1.75	-.81	-46.3	-41.9
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	51.88	-1.16	-2.2	-1.0	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	87.19	-.12	-.1	+21.9
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	3.97	-78.2	Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.50	+.14	+0.0	+74.8
Disney (DIS)	151.34	+.31	+.2	+16.5	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	124.23	+9.36	+7.6	+78.7
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	128.62	-2.46	-1.9	+40.6	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	79.90	+.38	+0.5	+9.8
Engine Gaming Media (GAME)	3.81	+.63	+16.3	...	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	18.33	+.52	+2.8	-19.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	23.88	-.25	-1.0	+18.2	Spectrum Pharmaceut (SPPI)	1.76	-48.4
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.93	-.27	-.3	-1.8	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	189.70	+.20	+0.1	+6.2
Ford Motor (F)	20.25	+.05	+.2	+130.4	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	26.26	+.05	+0.2	+36.1
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	9.53	+.16	+1.7	-14.7	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.68	+.00	+0.0	+42.6
Gap Inc (GPS)	17.84	-5.67	-31.8	-11.6	Terex Corp (TEX)	47.73	+.20	+0.4	+36.8
Gen Dynamics (GD)	198.74	-1.55	-.8	+33.5	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1116.00	+6.97	+0.6	+58.1
Gen Electric (GE)	102.23	+.15	+.1	+18.6	Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.48	-.01	-.2	-29.5
HP Inc (HPQ)	35.44	+3.25	+9.4	+44.1	Travelers Cos (TRV)	158.97	-1.29	-.8	+13.3
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	71.52	-.98	-1.4	+46.0	United Rentals (URI)	373.89	-1.30	-.3	+61.2
Honeywell Intl (HON)	212.21	-3.79	-1.8	-2	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	450.16	+3.03	+0.7	+28.4
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	17.05	+.07	+0.4	+28.8	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	316.00	+.81	+0.3	+45.6
Ideanomics Inc (IDEX)	1.59	+.13	+8.2	-20.4	Voya Financial (VOYA)	64.45	-1.66	-2.5	+9.6
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.61	-.28	-1.2	+33.4	Webster Financial (WBS)	59.12	-.54	-.9	+40.3
Intel Corp (INTC)	49.76	+.66	+1.3	...	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1057.54	+1.44	+0.1	+5.7
Kaman (KAMN)	40.49	+1.22	+3.0	-29.1	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	53.08	+.58	+1.1	+10.5
Keycorp (KEY)	23.96	-.01	-.0	+46.0	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	78.45	+.36	+0.5	+13.1
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	71.32	-.28	-.4	+41.8	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.20	+.01	+0.0	-12.9
Longeveron Inc (LGVN)	42.30	+25.08	+59.3	+48.1	Xpeng Inc ADR (XPEV)	54.37	+3.07	+5.8	+26.9
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	52.57	+.13	+0.2	+99.9	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	6.31	-.08	-1.3	-36.1
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.83	+.32	+0.7	+35.9					
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.60	-.23	-.2	+14.2					
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.36	+.00	...	-81.9					

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OPINION

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A sign in Atlanta urges people to vote early in Georgia's two U.S. Senate races. Georgia's General Assembly is now empowered to suspend county election officials. **JEFF AMY/AP 2020**

The politics of counting votes

By Lawrence Goldstone
The Fulcrum

There is an old quip that defines the word “chutzpah” (which in Yiddish means “nerve” or “gall”): “A man who murders his parents and then throws himself on the mercy of the court on the grounds that he’s an orphan.” Although it is uncertain how many red state Republicans are familiar with the joke, they have emulated it by first proclaiming outrage at non-existent election fraud and then passing draconian laws to protect American citizens from the made-up threat.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, at least 19 states, virtually all with legislatures under Republican control, have enacted legislation to make voting more difficult. Most of the new rules are designed to make casting a ballot sufficiently time-consuming and inconvenient that voters, especially in heavily Democratic, densely populated urban areas, will choose to stay home. These include limitations on absentee or mail-in voting, restrictions on voting hours and early voting, closing polling stations, prohibiting drop-box voting, and ramped-up identification requirements. Some states have even forbidden providing water or other refreshment to those waiting on long lines moving at glacial speed.

Although these rules may indeed discourage some, it is nearly impossible

to prevent committed, determined voters from eventually casting ballots — as African American voters demonstrated in Georgia in 2020. The voters who turned Georgia blue were willing to endure four- and five-hour wait times, bad weather and strictly-by-the-book poll workers. As a result, for many on the right, legislation that leaves voter commitment to chance was insufficient. More insidious were laws passed in some states that threaten to take the tabulation of voting results away from independent election officials and assign it to partisan political operatives.

Texas is a case in point. As with abortion, Lone Star Republicans are at the forefront of testing constitutional guarantees of voting rights. The state’s new election security legislation, in addition to banning 24-hour voting, severely limiting voting by mail, and tightening identification requirements, empowers partisan “poll watchers” and “election judges” — who may legally be armed — to have almost free run of polling places, both while ballots are being cast and when they are counted. They are also empowered to inject themselves into the process and potentially disallow legitimately cast ballots on spurious grounds.

Gov. Greg Abbott defended his state’s new law. “Voter fraud is real and Texas will prosecute it whenever and wherever it happens. We will continue to make it easy to vote but hard to cheat.” There is little in this statement that is true. Voter fraud,

beyond isolated cases, is not real and the law makes it harder to vote and easier to cheat.

Georgia’s new security measures are equally restrictive. In addition to adopting virtually all the provisions that will discourage voting, Georgia transferred authority for determining whether or not an election was fair to a state board headed by a political appointee, rather than the secretary of state, who had previously held that post. This, of course, was the direct result of Brad Raffensperger, Georgia’s secretary of state in 2020, refusing to bend to Donald Trump’s will and void Joe Biden’s victory. Georgia’s General Assembly is now also empowered to suspend county election officials and replace them with political appointees.

Texas and Georgia are only two of the states that are attempting to tilt the scales in Republicans’ favor. Similar efforts are underway across the nation. Republican leaders in those states are counting on a supportive, filibuster-happy Senate to prevent national voting rights legislation and a rubber stamp by an acquiescent Supreme Court whose conservative majority has shown scant inclination to recognize that equal protection of the laws is a hollow promise when some citizens are denied equal access to the ballot box.

While the need for Democrats and liberals to fight these laws with all the ferocity they can muster is obvious, less apparent is

why conservatives should oppose them as well. For them, these laws are victories, at least in the short term.

But history is replete with tales of short-term victories that spawned longer-term disasters. Democrats were convinced that Americans had embraced a new era of liberalism in 2008, when Barack Obama, an African American with the middle name of Hussein, was elected president. Two years later, in 2010, they faced the carnage of a midterm election that cost them not only national offices but a landslide of state and local offices as well. Although they took back the House and Joe Biden was elected, Democrats have never recovered from that debacle.

Politics to a significant degree is the cultivation and wielding of power. So it takes a good deal of self-discipline, to say nothing of courage, to give up short-term gains, especially when there is no guarantee of longer-term advantage. This is the choice that mainstream Republicans face.

Allowing political operatives to set aside election results violates the most fundamental precept of American democracy. What conservatives need to ask themselves, be they in government or not, is whether they are willing to risk the survival of a political system they purport to love in order to retain power.

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With inflation raging, the spending spree must end

By David Ditch
The Heritage Foundation

If you’re worried about the direction of the nation, the state of the economy or the sharp rise of price inflation, you’re not alone.

A recent Associated Press poll found 65% of Americans say economic conditions are poor. And a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 93% of Americans are concerned or very concerned about inflation.

Sadly, it appears that too few members of Congress share that concern.

Inflation, a problem we associate with the dismal 1970s, has indeed come roaring back over the last year. Economy-wide prices have increased much faster than wage or economic growth, eating into household budgets.

In an environment where American families must be careful with their finances, it would make sense for legislators in Washington to do the same for the nation’s finances. Yet we have seen just the opposite.

Congress has passed four major spending bills since the start of the pandemic and added a staggering \$5.5 trillion to the national debt in the process. That’s about \$43,000 in new debt for every household in the country.

Much of that spending has been wasteful or opportunistic, such as bailouts for politically connected industries and unnecessary handouts to state governments.

Pushing so much extra money into the economy over such a short period of time certainly helped contribute to today’s high inflation. With more dollars chasing the same number of goods, prices were bound

to increase.

Amazingly, Washington’s spending spree shows no sign of slowing down.

President Joe Biden just signed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure spending package into law. Nonpartisan analysts have shown that the bill will add hundreds of billions of dollars to the debt, even after the use of budget gimmicks such as repurposing stimulus funds that weren’t going to be used.

Worse, much of the infrastructure spending will go to waste. For example, it heavily funds modes of transportation such as mass transit and Amtrak that only a small percentage of the country uses. This is happening at a time when trends like remote work and teleconferencing threaten to make transit and intercity rail even more irrelevant.

Coming on the heels of the \$1.9 trillion “American Rescue Plan” from March, the infrastructure bill ought to be enough to satisfy even the biggest spenders on Capitol Hill.

It appears they’re just getting warmed up.

Biden’s massive spending package labeled “Build Back Better” has just passed the House and will move on to consideration in the Senate. The latest version of the bill contains over \$2 trillion in spending and tax credits, and would add hundreds of billions to the debt.

More importantly, that cost is severely understated due to a heavy dose of gimmicks.

According to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the real cost of the bill is closer to \$5 trillion. That’s because many key programs in the bill are only put in place for a short period,



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks Nov. 18 about prospects for the Build Back Better Act. The House approved the bill the next day. **SARAHBETH MANEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

in some cases as little as a single year.

Since taxes in the bill are spread over 10 years, while the spending is front-loaded, the effect would be an enormous deficit increase at a time when the economy is already wracked by the biggest inflation spike in decades.

The White House has sought to deflect this criticism with threadbare talking points. One of these flimsy rebuttals is that the bill has “zero cost” if it doesn’t add to the debt.

Setting aside that it would indeed add to the debt, this would be like emptying your retirement account to buy a Corvette and then claiming the car didn’t cost anything because you paid for it.

More tellingly, administration officials have claimed that the bill wouldn’t worsen inflation as long as it doesn’t add to the debt.

However, what matters for today’s inflation isn’t whether the bill balances over a decade, but whether it balances over the

next few years. Since it uses massive deficit spending in the first five years to artificially pump more money into the economy, that will put pressure on prices to increase even faster than they already are.

Federal finances were already in rough shape before the pandemic. Both parties have long ignored the problems facing major benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare, which are heading towards bankruptcy in the near future.

Rather than making inflation worse by creating new programs that are already bankrupt in advance, Congress should recognize the importance of responsible governance and start to live within their means.

That’s what American families have to do every day. Washington shouldn’t get a pass just because they have the privilege of using other people’s money.

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Connecticut

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice John Doe father of child born on 11/6/2021 to Chelsea E. of parts unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:

Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private agency or a suitable and worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard 12/30/21 at 11:30 AM at Superior Court of Hartford Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody will be heard on: 12/3/21 at 10:00 AM at Superior Court of Hartford Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in The Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon. Linda Allard
Signed: Clerk - Debra Rubert
Date Signed: 11/23/21

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
11/25/21 7094265

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH

In accordance with the Town of Glastonbury Ordinance entitled Ordinance Concerning the Demolition of Buildings, notice is hereby given that 2283-2289 Main Street LLC, C/O HB Nitkin Group filed an application on November 12, 2021 for a permit to demolish commercial/industrial buildings & structures on the property known as 2283-2289 Main Street. Any person wishing to object to such demolition must submit a written objection to the Building Official and a copy mailed by first class mail to the applicant and to the owner of the property by any individual, firm, corporation, organization or other entity within thirty (30) days following publication of the legal notice. (Advertising date is 11/25/2021 & Objection Deadline date is December 25, 2021)

Peter R. Carey
Building Official
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The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard 12/30/21 at 11:30 AM at Superior Court of Hartford Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody will be heard on: 12/3/21 at 10:00 AM at Superior Court of Hartford Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in The Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon. Linda Allard
Signed: Clerk - Debra Rubert
Date Signed: 11/23/21

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
11/25/21 7094265

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH

In accordance with the Town of Glastonbury Ordinance entitled Ordinance Concerning the Demolition of Buildings, notice is hereby given that 2283-2289 Main Street LLC, C/O HB Nitkin Group filed an application on November 12, 2021 for a permit to demolish commercial/industrial buildings & structures on the property known as 2283-2289 Main Street. Any person wishing to object to such demolition must submit a written objection to the Building Official and a copy mailed by first class mail to the applicant and to the owner of the property by any individual, firm, corporation, organization or other entity within thirty (30) days following publication of the legal notice. (Advertising date is 11/25/2021 & Objection Deadline date is December 25, 2021)

Peter R. Carey
Building Official
11/25/2021 7091976

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH

In accordance with the Town of Glastonbury Ordinance entitled Ordinance Concerning the Demolition of Buildings, notice is hereby given that 2389 Main Street LLC, C/O HB Nitkin Group filed an application on November 12, 2021 for a permit to demolish commercial/industrial buildings & structures on the property known as 2341-2345 Main Street. Any person wishing to object to such demolition must submit a written objection to the Building Official and a copy mailed by first class mail to the applicant and to the owner of the property by any individual, firm, corporation, organization or other entity within thirty (30) days following publication of the legal notice. (Advertising date is 11/25/2021 & Objection Deadline date is December 25, 2021)

Peter R. Carey
Building Official
11/25/2021 7091964

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH

In accordance with the Town of Glastonbury Ordinance entitled Ordinance Concerning the Demolition of Buildings, notice is hereby given that 2389 Main Street LLC, C/O HB Nitkin Group filed an application on November 12, 2021 for a permit to demolish commercial/industrial buildings & structures on the property known as 2389 Main Street. Any person wishing to object to such demolition must submit a written objection to the Building Official and a copy mailed by first class mail to the applicant and to the owner of the property by any individual, firm, corporation, organization or other entity within thirty (30) days following publication of the legal notice. (Advertising date is 11/25/2021 & Objection Deadline date is December 25, 2021)

Peter R. Carey
Building Official
11/25/2021 7091939

LEGAL NOTICE A421-288 - 1008 Palisado Ave, Windsor, CT - Re: Shed Installation in the upland review was approved by the Wetland Agent for the Windsor Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission on November 19, 2021.
11/25/21 7093451

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NOTICE

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Manchester West, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021..

Michael Tracy 0259
katie colon 0054
Fareeda Essafi 0049
Jeffrey Edward Lafleur 0385
francesca Jusino 0336
Karen E Martinez Romero 0058
Carlee Lechner 0244
Helena L Hooks 0281
Shakya Strickland 0269
Michael Wood 0087
Charissa Breen 0139
Jackie Massey 0069
DALE LACHAPPELLE 0319
Deshanayia Liberty 0022
Dylan Thomas Morris 0073
Christopher Stephens 0151

Isaiah James Acevedo 0062

Contents to be sold on the premises of 53-71 Spencer St, Manchester, CT 06040 on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 9:00AM.

Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a \$100.00 deposit will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com
Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy Pace, for an appointment to purchase any units won in auction. All persons will be turned away without an appointment. Contact Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at Joy_Pace@uhaul.com
11/24, 11/25/21 7092946

AT HOME
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MOTORING

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PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LEGAL SERVICES - TOWN ATTORNEY

The Town of South Windsor is seeking Requests for Proposals from qualified individual attorneys or law firms to provide general legal services as Town Attorney for the period of 24 months. RFP packages are available at the Town Council Office, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT 06074 or by calling (860) 644-2511, ext. 2202. An original and six (6) copies of the sealed proposal must be received in the Town Council Office, in envelopes plainly marked "RFP Legal Services" by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022. Requests for any information must be made at least seven (7) days prior to the advertised response deadline. The Town of South Windsor reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, or any part thereof, if it is in the best interest of the Town.

Town Attorney Search Committee
11/25/21 7093729

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **KIM DEMBROWSKI, 3150 60TH AVE VERO BEACH, FL 32966-6457**. Have filed an application placarded **11/25/2021** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **RESTAURANT CATERER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **1000 EVERGREEN WAY SOUTH WINDSOR CT 06074-5571**. The business will be owned by HARBOR SOUTH WINDSOR MANAGEMENT LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Plays/Shows, Comedians Objections must be filed by: 01-06-2022.

11/25/2021
KIM DEMBROWSKI
11/25, 12/02/21 7089971

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **MARLON SORIANO, 78 CATHERINE ST HARTFORD, CT 06106-3518**. Have filed an application placarded **11/17/2021** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **222 MAIN STREET NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051-2225**. The business will be owned by THE INDUSTRIAL BAR & COCKTAILS LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Disc Jockeys, Live Bands Objections must be filed by: 12/29/2021.

11/17/2021
MARLON SORIANO
11/25, 12/02, 12/2/2021 7093823

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

BLOOMFIELD
Melvin Lacafta

EAST HARTFORD
Debra E. Hodges

ENFIELD
Christopher P. Alexander*
Melvin Lacafta
James W. Raynor Iii

FAIRFIELD
Roger F. Nolte

GRANBY
Melvin Lacafta

HARTFORD
Troy L. Boomer
Joanne J. Lerche
Roger F. Nolte

NEW BRITAIN
Ryszard Malek

NEWINGTON
Mark Thompson*

SUFFIELD
Carol J. Kraiza

VERNON
Roger F. Nolte

WEST SUFFIELD
Carol J. Kraiza


WETHERSFIELD
Melvin Lacafta

WINDSOR
Roger F. Nolte

WINDSOR LOCKS
Roger F. Nolte

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES



Nolte, Roger F.

Roger Frederick Nolte stood for community service his entire life. He passed away on November 22, 2021, after a 2-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Roger continued all his efforts for his community until his last 10 days in Hospice care.

Roger was born on October 10, 1951. His parents were Walter Donald & Carolyn (Morse) Nolte. Roger was raised in Warwick RI, Asheville NC & Fairfield CT.

He graduated from Robert Ludlow High School and Southern CT State University. On May 18, 1985, he married Susan Strickland. Their daughter, Jennifer Nolte Freitas, was the joy of their lives. Roger lost Sue 27 years ago. Roger and Jenny became a team for good in the Windsor community.

After the passing of his wife, Roger attended Mary's Place: A Center for Grieving Children and Families with Jenny to help support the grieving process. He soon became an active volunteer and served this organization for over 25 years. From setting up drinks and food for their annual picnic to purchasing gifts for the Christmas parties, Roger's heart showed true passion for the Mary's Place mission. His giving heart didn't end there as he contributed to years of plant sales to raise money for the youth group and work behind the scenes at many events at Trinity Church. Roger also served on the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Northwest Park. He was chairman of the Northwest Park Country Fair for 5 years and was an active volunteer at many events. Although he served in many ways, Roger never wanted the attention or recognition he deserved. He was honored several times over the years for his service, and one of his most cherished memories was being nominated and selected as the Patriots Difference Maker of the Week in which he was honored at the Patriots Stadium during a game for his volunteerism with Mary's Place.

Roger was a birdhouse enthusiast and always had a green thumb. He enjoyed planting in his gardens and growing hundreds of tomatoes during the summer to share with friends. Being outside in the garden brought him great joy.


Roger worked for over 44 years throughout New England as a Market Researcher with AC Nielsen & Capstone Research.

Roger is survived by beloved family including his daughter, Jennifer Jocelyn Nolte Freitas and her husband, Jason Freitas of Vernon, CT, 3 Brothers & one Sister, Daniel Nolte of Fairfield, CT, Karen Nolte Shipp & Gene of Broadway, VA, Peter Nolte & Stephanie of Chantilly, VA and Donald Nolte & Jean of Simsbury, CT, 2 brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law, Jim Strickland & Sharon of Elizabethtown, KY, Bob Strickland of Windermere FL, and Joan Strickland of Orlando, FL, as well as 8 nieces, 5 nephews, 6 grandchildren and 4 grandnephews. He also leaves behind countless friends from all walks of his life.

Roger's family would like to thank Dr. Pazooki's office at RCCA in West Hartford for their positive spirit and care during his treatments. Also, thank you to all the nurses and staff at McLean Hospice who showed true compassion for Roger and his family during a difficult time.

His family will receive friends Friday, November 26, 2021, from 5-8 PM at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor. A Funeral Service will be Saturday, November 27, 2021, at 10 AM at Trinity Church, 180 Park Avenue, Windsor. Private burial will follow in Oaklawn Cemetery, Fairfield. The family would like everyone to wear masks for the visitation and funeral service.

In lieu of flowers Roger requested you consider donations to Mary's Place at 6 Poquonock Ave in Windsor, CT 06095 or to The Friends of Northwest Park at 145 Lang Road in Windsor, CT 06095. It would be greatly appreciated. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Raynor III, James W.


James W. "Jim" Raynor III, 90, formerly of East Longmeadow and Enfield, widower of Marilyn (LaPointe) Raynor (2017), entered into eternal peace Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 at Bickford Healthcare. The son of the late James W. Raynor Jr. and Amelia (Desroches) Raynor, Jim was born in Port Jefferson, NY and was raised in Bellport, Long Island. He was a US Army Korean War veteran and was a member and Past Commander of the John Maciolek Post #154 American Legion. Additionally, he was a member of the Korean War Veterans. He was a resident of the Enfield community for 54 years before moving to East Longmeadow. A longtime parishioner of Holy family Church of St. Jeanne Jugan Parish, Jim was a former Eucharistic minister and was a member of the Legion of Mary. He retired from Aetna Life & Casualty after 20 plus years with the company. Prior to joining Aetna he was a disc jockey with WDRC. He enjoyed golfing and spending time with his family.

Jim is survived by three daughters, Patricia Schaffels and her husband Michael of Spokane, WA, Jill Smith and her husband Mark of Enfield, Karen Slaydon and her husband Glen of Enfield, a brother, Peter Raynor and his wife Judy of Kyle, TX, a sister, Kirstine Nogiewicz of Kissimmee, FL, three grandchildren, Meghan Rhodes, and, Alison and Kyle Slaydon. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Visitation hours will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, 2021 at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd., Enfield. Family and friends may gather at 9 a.m. Monday Nov. 30 at Leete-Stevens for a procession to Holy Family Church, 23 Simon Rd., Enfield, for a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. Committal, with military honors accorded by the U.S. Army and Post #154, will follow at St. Patrick's King St. Cemetery. Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the John Maciolek Post #154 American Legion, PO Box 154, Enfield, CT 06083, and to the Disabled American Veterans at www.DAV.org To leave online condolences, please visit www.Leetesteve.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries


OBITUARIES



Boomer, Troy L.


Troy Lee Boomer, 75, of Hartford, CT, passed away November 16, 2021. He was born in New Bern, North Carolina on September 26, 1946, to the late Usher Boomer and Cassie (Morris) Boomer. Troy leaves to cherish his memory, his Longtime Companion, Mary Bolton; as well as a host of relatives and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, November 26, 2021, at 3:00PM; with visitation from 2:00PM-3:00PM at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (A Division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services), 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT. Interment will take place at the CT State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown, CT 06457, at a later date. To leave a message of comfort for the Boomer family and view the full obituary, please visit www.hkhfuneralservices.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES



Hodges, Debra Elaine


Debra Elaine Hodges, 56, of East Hartford, transitioned peacefully on Thursday, November 18, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Debra was born in Hartford, July 13, 1965, daughter of Diane (Clayton) Hodges and the late Clarence Hodges. She graduated from Granby Memorial High School, Class of 1983. Debra continued her educational journey, earning her Associates Degree in accounting from Greater Hartford Community College, and became a Paralegal in 2005. She was employed by Howard L. Shift, Attorney at Law, and was extremely honored and proud to be awarded Employee of the Year. Debra retired only when her illness would no longer allow her to work.

Debra was a loving and devoted mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. She will fondly be remembered as a woman of integrity, virtue, and wisdom; and for the love, care, and compassion that she gave to others. Debra's heart was bigger than life and she would always put others first. Her ambition, strength, and determination to never let her illness get in her way was truly an example to those who knew and loved her. Debra enjoyed spending a great deal of time with her family and friends, especially for cook outs and the holidays, and embodied the spirit of togetherness and hospitality. She leaves a legacy of memories that will last a lifetime. Debra also enjoyed listening to R&B, and especially enjoyed Usher, Bruno Mars, and Beyonce.

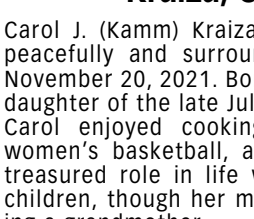
The passing of Debra will forever leave an ache in the hearts of those who knew and loved her, and in addition to her mother, she leaves to cherish her memories, her children, Eric Hodges and Keisha Dukes; her sister, Cheryl Hodges, her nephew Tyrell Hodges, her great nephew Amari Carmichael all East Hartford; and her good friends Debra Harts of New Britain and Charlene Dukes of East Hartford. Along with her father, she was predeceased by her nephew Donell Carmichael.

Funeral services will be held 11am on Monday, November 29, 2021 at the Carmon Community Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 10am-11am. Interment will follow immediately after the services in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES



Kraiza, Carol J. (Kamm)

Carol J. (Kamm) Kraiza, 77, of West Suffield, passed peacefully and surrounded by her loving family on November 20, 2021. Born in Hartford, on April 30, 1944 daughter of the late Julius and Linda Kamm.


Carol enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, UCONN women's basketball, and attending live theatre. Her treasured role in life was caring for all her family's children, though her most cherished role was becoming a grandmother.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years Richard Kraiza, her son Richard Kraiza and his wife Karine and their son, Carols only grandson, Alexandre; daughter, Lynn Kraiza; sister Jacqueline Messenger and her husband James; brother Robert J. Kamm and his companion Lois Longley.

The funeral services and burial will be private. Heritage Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made in Carol's honor to: Suffield Community Aid 430 South Street, Suffield, CT 06078. Online condolences please visit: www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES



Lerche, Joanne J.

Joanne Jones Lerche passed away Sunday, November 21, 2021, having succumbed to the effects of Alzheimer's Disease. She was born the daughter of Mack C. Jones and Catherine Smith Jones on May 13, 1935, in Champaign, IL.

Joanne was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, Svend E. Lerche. She is survived and missed by her children Michael Lerche and his wife Robbie MacKinnon Lerche of Franklin, TN; Susan Lerche Rousseau and her husband Alex Rousseau of Ledyard, CT; James Lerche of Jacksonville, FL; and Diane Lerche Costea and her husband Cristian Costea of Columbia, TN, along with 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and scores of other family and friends.

Joanne grew up in Farmington, CT, graduating from Farmington High School in 1953. She went on to attain her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1957. She married Svend E. Lerche that same year on June 15. They raised their family in Linwood, NJ and later in Preston, CT, where they lived and were active in the community for more than 30 years.


Joanne was an active member of the Preston City Congregational Church and a lifetime member of Girl Scouts. She was a leader to troops in Preston for 10 years. Later going on to a staff position with Girl Scouts, CT Trails Council for 25 years. She was also a fanatical supporter of women's basketball in CT, holding tickets for UCONN, The Blizzard and The Connecticut Sun, rarely missing a game or the Final Four.

Joanne, like her mother and approximately 55 million others, dealt with the effects of Alzheimer's Disease for more than 15 years. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association.

A calling hour will be held from 10:00-11:00 AM on Saturday, December 11th with a memorial service immediately following at 11:00 AM at the Preston City Congregational Church in Preston, CT. You may share condolences with the family at the Heritage Funeral Home website: www.TnFunerals.com.


Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES




Lacafta, Melvin

Melvin James Lacafta, 95, of Granby, beloved husband of the late Jean (Martin) Lacafta, peacefully passed away at home on Friday, November 19, 2021. Son of the late Peter and Louise (Melvin) Lacafta, he was born in Manchester on November 28, 1925. Melvin proudly served his country in the United States Navy aboard the USS Leslye B. Knox during WWII. He had a long career as a general foreman at Hamilton Standard. Melvin was an avid fly fisherman who took pride in teaching the sport. He loved spending summers at his beloved camp on the Natchaug River and welcomed all who wanted to visit. He also enjoyed cooking, and his famous pizza recipe will live on for future generations. Melvin lived life to the fullest and was especially proud of his beloved family and grandchildren. When asked about his legacy, he said he lived each day with the mantra, "Soldier on." Melvin is survived by seven children: Sandra Dykstra and her husband James of Fort Meyers, FL, Peter Lacafta and his wife Leslye of Bloomfield, William Lacafta and his wife Susanne of Houston, TX, James Lacafta and his partner Dennis Burke of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Mel Lacafta and his girlfriend Carrie Liqueore of Enfield, Dawn Marie Conde and her husband Frank of Granby, and Joseph Lacafta of Wethersfield. He also leaves behind 14 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. In addition to his beloved wife Jean, Melvin was predeceased by his son, John Lacafta and sister, Rose O'Connell. Services will be held at a later date, at the convenience of the family. Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels has care of the arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.leetesteve.com. The family extends its sincere thanks to the staff of Masonicare of East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Masonicare at www.masonicare.org.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries


OBITUARIES



Malek, Ryszard


Ryszard Malek, 85, of New Britain, passed away at his home in the morning of November 24th 2021, surrounded by his family. Ryszard was born in Jarocin, Poland on September 21, 1936. He was a son of late Jan Malek and Julia Podpora. He immigrated to the United States in 1979, and was an active member of the Polish community, volunteering at the New Britain Falcon Club. He retired from Caval Tool Company in 2002 where he worked as a machinist. He is survived by his wife Danuta Malek, his daughters Ela Lacki and Grarzyna Kata, and siblings Helena Ostrowski, Wladyslawa Techman, Danuta Lopaciuch Tadeusz Malek, Janina Ceglaz. He also leaves behind several loving nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends. Ryszard was predeceased by his brothers Henryk Malek, Edward Malek and Jozef Malek. New Britain Memorial-Sagarino Funeral Home is entrusted with services. Calling hours will be held on Friday November 26th from 4pm - 7pm. Procession will assemble from the funeral home between 9:30AM and 10:00AM.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at on November 27th at 10:30am, Sacred Heart Church, 158 Broad St, New Britain, CT 06053. Burial will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery 662 Burritt St in New Britain. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.NewBritainSagarino.com for the Malek family.



Happy Birthday! Thinking Of You.
Wife Lisa, Mom, Brother David
Niece Sarah and Conrad


OBITUARIES



**In Loving Memory Of
ROBERT & MARIE VENORA**

8/24/1930 - 2/21/1997

Happy Thanksgiving Mom & Dad! Boy, do I miss you! Our Thanksgiving's are not the same without you, but we do the best we can. We have been getting together with our relatives lately and it brings us right back to the cherished memories of both of you. We are so thankful today to have had such amazing parents. You made our lives so wonderful. Happy Thanksgiving in Heaven Mom & Dad. Love you always, your Lisa xoxo



Everyone leaves a legacy. Celebrate an extraordinary life by creating an enduring Life Story on Legacy.com with biography, photos, eulogies, letters and cherished mementoes.

For more information, visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

State hospitalization number at 300



In this October file photo, ICU nurse Samantha Lazzara heads into a COVID-19 patient's room in the ICU unit at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, Illinois. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut on Wednesday hit 300 COVID-19 hospitalizations for the first time in more than two months, as the state's coronavirus metrics trend in a worrisome direction entering the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, said Wednesday he expects Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers will continue to rise in coming weeks but that they won't likely reach the levels of last

winter's surge, when more than 1,200 people were hospitalized at some points.

"It is going to increase, but it is not going to be anywhere close to last year," Wu said. "But we're still at numbers — 300 hospitalizations in the state — that shouldn't be there. Just because it's not 1,000 like last year doesn't make me feel any better."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 841 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday out of 22,613 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 3.72%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 3.44%, up slightly from Tuesday and the highest at a given time since Sept. 1.

The state has averaged 752 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, its highest in a seven-day span since mid-September. Unvaccinated residents have been about five times as likely to test positive as vaccinated residents, according to state data.

As of Wednesday, 110 of

Turn to COVID-19, Page 2

Budget options grow as state pays down obligations

By Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

State government took major steps over the past three years to reverse a dangerous trend of escalating debt and while it might take a little longer for the good news to filter down to the state's official record, the signs have begun to show.

Efforts to curb pension debt in particular have budget analysts optimistic that state finances won't be in shock two years from now when federal COVID relief expires.

At first glance, the news does not appear promising. Fiscal Accountability reports filed Friday by state analysts show a whopping \$95.4 billion in long-term debt, a daunting figure that's up 4.1% over the past year. More important, that appears to continue the trend that saw unfunded obligations increase 42% between 2013 and 2020 while the state refinanced its pension debt three times.

But the good news lies in the fine print.

Those numbers cover only the last official valuation of the pension funds for state employees and teachers — meaning they don't include more than \$1.6 billion in supplemental payments the state made using budget surplus this fall.

Applying these payments alone brings the debt growth below 2.5%.

And the latest reports also don't fully account for a stock market that has helped pension investments surge. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at nearly 35,602 last Friday, when the fiscal accountability reports were released. That's 20% higher than it closed one year ago at this time.

"We are making great progress," Sen. John Fonfara, D-Hartford, co-chairman of the Finance Committee, said of the reports. "I'm just cautious because no one predicted we'd be where we are."

Omnibus projections of spending, revenue and other fiscal trends are due annually in late November to help lawmakers prepare for the upcoming General Assembly session.

The potential to hold the line on debt growth now is huge, Fonfara said, adding that

Connecticut has many years of work still to do to redeem its fiscal past.

"Whatever we decide to do [next], it should be done with a full appreciation of where we are today and where we will be for many years to come, unfortunately," he said.

Having under-contributed to its pensions for more than seven decades running through 2010, Connecticut carries more pension debt per person than almost any other state. Required contributions to the pension funds already approach \$3 billion and consume 14% of the General Fund, leeching resources away from education, health care, transportation, municipal aid and other core programs.

But the \$1.7 billion *extra* Connecticut has deposited into its pensions over the past two years likely will pay dividends soon, analysts wrote.

Those extra dollars — plus all of the extra investment earnings they will achieve — will boost the value of the two major pension funds over time. And when the values go up, the required annual payment often goes down.

"An encouraging note in the out-years," the legislature's nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis wrote in its report, "is that revenue growth outpaces fixed-cost growth."

"Fixed costs are projected to increase less dramatically," added Lamont's budget agency, the Office of Policy and Management.

When legislators adopted a new, two-year state budget in June and supported it with more than \$2.6 billion in emergency federal coronavirus aid, nonpartisan analysts warned of the inevitable fiscal cliff Connecticut would face once that relief expired in July 2023.

But thanks not only to stronger pension funds but also a surging stock market, analysts have downgraded that fiscal cliff to still-steep-yet-manageable budgetary hill.

State finances, unless adjusted, still face a built-in deficit of about \$930 million in the 2023-24 fiscal year, a gap equal to 4% of the General Fund.

But Connecticut also holds a record-setting \$3.1 billion in its

Turn to Budget, Page 2



Pritti Mallik and her daughter, Pranisha Karn, shop inside Rasham Marketplace. Owner Talal Peracha, whose family operates Rasham Restaurant in South Windsor, says the market offers prepared Pakistani takeout items and groceries from South Asia, Pakistan, Greece, Syria and Eastern Europe. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

WEST HARTFORD

Rasham Marketplace offers Pakistani takeout

Shop also offers specialty groceries from around the world

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD — Fans of the South Windsor restaurant Rasham can now satisfy their cravings for Pakistani food in West Hartford. Rasham Marketplace, a grocery-takeout place, opened this month at 770 Farmington Ave.

The shop, owned by Talet and Javaria Peracha and managed by their son, Talal Peracha, sells foods from Pakistan, India, the Middle East and Europe, and halal beef, lamb, chicken, goat and sucuk sausage. Fish popular in the Indian subcontinent are available, such as rahu, pomfret, katla, hilsa and kingfish.

At the deli counter in back,

Turn to Takeout, Page 2



Rasham Marketplace owner Talal Peracha sorts Jalebi. Peracha says the Marketplace offers prepared Pakistani takeout items and groceries from South Asia, Pakistan, Greece, Syria and Eastern Europe.

BUSHNELL PARK

Winterfest ice skating tradition returns

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Winterfest Hartford, the annual outdoor series of free ice skating days in Bushnell Park that features music, Santa and seasonal activities, runs Friday to Jan. 9.

This marks a return for Winterfest. The event was canceled last year in late November as COVID-19 cases were on the increase and Winterfest didn't have the budget for socially distanced skating.

"It feels so good to be back. Things are not all the way back to normal yet but this is an outdoor event where people feel safe and comfortable," said Jackie

Mandyck, executive director of iQuilt Partnership, which organizes Winterfest. Unless COVID numbers spike, Mandyck said, there will be no differences on the rink.

There will be one addition, though. Little kids who need help keeping their balance can use new skating aids that look like penguins. The \$5,000 to pay for those aids was approved by the public initiative Hartford Decides.

Other elements of the event will change, though.

"In past years we had a game room. We've moved all the games into the courtyard," she said. "Santa is usually at the carousel. We're moving it back to the Pumphouse.

We're doing it a different way. Kids won't be able to sit on Santa's lap but they will be able to get a picture with Santa, with restrictions. We will only allow one family at a time into the Pumphouse."

Masks can be worn but they are not required. However, if the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the City of Hartford changes protocols, that rule is subject to change.

"If people would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, they can. It's cold, so some people might want it for the warmth," Mandyck said.

The 11th annual Winterfest

Turn to Winterfest, Page 2



The 11th Winterfest in Bushnell Park begins Friday and runs through Jan. 9. **COURANT FILE**

CONNECTICUT



A Connecticut prison inmate has died from complications of COVID-19, officials said Wednesday. The inmate’s name was not released. **FILE**

State prison inmate dies from COVID-related complications

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Another Connecticut prison inmate has died from complications of COVID-19, officials said Wednesday.

The 62-year-old male inmate had been receiving treatment at an outside hospital since Oct. 29 and died on Tuesday, according to the Department of Correction. The inmate was previously incarcerated at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution.

The inmate, whose name was

not released, “suffered from several underlying comorbidities,” department officials said.

Twenty-one Connecticut prison inmates have died from COVID-related complications as of Nov. 19, according to Department of Correction data. As of Nov. 23, 104 incarcerated people are symptomatic with the virus.

Just over 5,000 state prison inmates have received at least one dose of a vaccine, according to the department. There are 9,391 people currently incarcerated in state prison as of October, accord-

ing to the most recent department data.

Just 65% of the correction department’s 5,444 employees are fully vaccinated, according to data from Gov. Ned Lamont’s office, which lags behind other executive branch departments. Twelve percent, or 634 employees, have refused to get vaccinated or undergo weekly testing.

According to department officials, the inmate entered the correctional system on Sept. 15 on a sentence related to operating a motor vehicle while under the

influence. He was expected to be released on or before Jan. 12, 2022.

The inmate’s vaccination status was not immediately known.

In a statement Wednesday, Department of Correction Commissioner Angel Quiros offered his condolences to the inmate’s family.

“This is a sobering reminder that Covid-19 cannot be taken for granted,” Quiros said. “Our agency will not let its collective guard down — we will continue to fight against the spread of this dreaded virus. My condolences go out to his family.”

NEWINGTON

Pedestrian struck and killed by passenger car

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Newington police are investigating an incident in which a driver reportedly struck and killed a pedestrian on Willard Avenue at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening.

The pedestrian later was identified by police as Yvonne Constant, 55, of New Britain.

Emergency personnel responding to the scene attempted lifesaving measures on Constant, who was then taken to a local hospital, police said. Constant was later pronounced

dead.

Newington police closed the portion of Willard Avenue near New Britain Avenue for several hours while police and the Mid-State Accident Reconstruction Squad investigated.

The driver of the vehicle, a

passenger car, remained on the scene and was identified, police said.

Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact Detective Feeney at 860-594-6208.

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Budget

from Page 1

rainy day fund, more than enough to cover the shortfall.

That reserve is due largely to a savings program that enabled the state to take advantage of the recent good fortune on Wall Street.

Enacted in 2017 through a bipartisan compromise, the program

restricts legislators from spending income tax receipts tied to capital gains and other investment earnings once they exceed about \$3.1 billion in any given year.

And once the rainy day fund has been filled to its legal maximum and nothing more can be saved, any budget surpluses must be used to pay down pension debt. The funds can’t be used for anything else unless 60% of both the House and

Senate agree. No attempt to redirect the funds has been attempted so far.

But surpluses averaging more than \$1.5 billion are projected for both this fiscal year and next, prompting some legislators and Lamont to talk about cutting state taxes.

Fonfara, whose committee has jurisdiction over all tax legislation, said that’s fine for discussion, but

Connecticut cannot afford to be satisfied simply at slowing or stopping the growth of its massive debt.

Pension contributions, other debt payments and Medicaid expenses — all fixed or largely fixed costs — consume more than half of the state budget, he noted.

“When people ask why we can’t do X, why we can do Y,” Fonfara added, “it’s because half of every dollar ... is already spoken for.”

Winterfest

from Page 1

skating hours are daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, when the rink will be open noon to 4 p.m.; and on New Year’s Eve, the rink will be open 11 a.m. to midnight to coincide with First Night, downtown Hartford’s annual New Year’s Eve party. Some other events include:

- Skating classes, available to all ages with free skate rentals, will take place on Dec. 4, 11 and 18 and Jan. 8 and 10 from 10 to 11 a.m.
- Santa’s Workshops will be in the Pumphouse on Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 from noon to 3 p.m.
- “Giant Game Room” will be on the Pumphouse patio on Dec. 3, 4, 11, 12, 18 and 19 from noon to 4 p.m.
- Hartford’s Proud Drill Drum and Dance Corp will perform on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.
- Chompers, one of the Hartford Yard Goats mascots, will be there on Dec. 5 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- Mondays in December from 5 to 8 p.m. will have themed music, of the ’70s, ’80s, ’90s and Disney.
- The Bushnell Park carousel is open Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Admission to the carousel is \$2.

More information at winterfesthartford.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

COVID-19

from Page 1

Connecticut’s 169 municipalities qualified for the state’s “red alert” category, which is triggered when a town or city averages 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents.

All eight Connecticut counties are currently recording “high” levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hospitalizations

As of Wednesday, Connecticut has 300 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 18 from Tuesday and matching the most at a time since Sept. 20. Hospitalizations have now increased 53% since Nov. 7.

Hospital officials say the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symptoms are unvaccinated.

Deaths

Connecticut on Wednesday reported 31 COVID-19 deaths over the past six days, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,865.

The United States has now recorded 774,416 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Wednesday, 83.3% of all Connecticut residents and 93.7% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 71.7% of all residents and 82.3% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, 23.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

Vaccine providers in Connecticut administered 137,950 doses from Nov. 14-20, most in a week since mid-May.

As of last week, all adults who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot, along with all adults who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Takeout

from Page 1

Peracha sells samosas, chats, shish, nihari, tikka masala, tandoori, chana masala, soups and rice. The takeout food, made by Peracha’s parents at the South Windsor eatery, is cold and can be reheated at home.

At the deli counter in front, sweets are sold, including jalebi, milk cake, laddoo, baklava and mango lassi.

Rasham is the word for silk, and it also is the name of Talal Peracha’s grandmother. He is a native of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and now lives in Tolland.

Rasham Market is where the popular Cosmos International Indian market used to be. In acquiring the property, the Perachas returned to a place that was important to them in their early days in the country.

“The family that owned Cosmos



Rasham Market in West Hartford offers prepared Pakistani takeout items and groceries from South Asia, Pakistan, Greece, Syria and Eastern Europe. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

helped South Asian people fill out their immigration and naturalization forms, because the forms are difficult to understand, and if you make a mistake it stalls the

process for a long time,” Talal Peracha said. “My parents came to them for help with our naturalization forms.”

In its first few weeks, he has

benefited from Cosmos’ loyal customer base in the area. “We’re trying to keep up with Cosmos,” Peracha said. “We’re happy people can come here and buy the things

they were able to buy there, and a few other things, too.”

The shelves and freezers are full of specialty groceries from all over the world, that would be difficult to find in mainstream stores: several varieties of ghee, tamarind chutney, mustard oil, rose petal preserves, pomegranate molasses, date syrup, cheeses from Syria and Bulgaria, paratha, naan, kulcha.

The market is in its early days. Peracha has plans for the future of the place, including adding to the heat-and-eat lineup. “It won’t be one of those places where what we have changes every day, but we will have more things,” he said. “We will have more food on the shelves, including Sadaf products from Turkey.”

Rasham Marketplace is open Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

MANCHESTER

Fourth grader found with THC edibles

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Constant vigilance is necessary, Manchester’s school superintendent warned parents this week, after marijuana edibles were found in a fourth grader’s backpack.

“I’m writing to share a story that illustrates how easily and even inadvertently children can be put at risk and how important parental oversight and involvement can be in ensuring their safety,” Superintendent Matt Geary wrote to the school community.

An alarmed mother called school officials Friday after finding a “honey packet” in her child’s backpack. The boy said another child gave it to him, Geary wrote. The mother noticed the word “pharma” on the packet, then checked the small print and found it contained THC.

School officials learned that another parent who bought the packet legally

for medical use had left it in the pocket of a jacket that her child mistakenly wore to school, Geary wrote. No children consumed the contents, he wrote.

“However, we share this story as a cautionary tale,” Geary continued. “As you may know, adult use of cannabis is now legal in Connecticut and children, because of their small body size and weight, can be especially vulnerable to cannabis poisoning.”

The mother’s discovery follows an incident just before Halloween when two Manchester middle school students were sickened by what was likely marijuana edibles.

“Edible cannabis items can resemble common snacks,” Geary wrote in the recent letter, “and children may be unable to tell the difference, so we urge adults to keep cannabis in child-resistant containers or packages, and stored in a locked compartment, drawer, or cupboard

that is out of sight and out of reach.”

Attorney General William Tong warned the public recently about the dangers of cannabis edibles and hemp derivatives in packaging designed to look like well-known snack foods and candy.

“These look-alike cannabis products are unregulated, unsafe and illegal,” Tong said. “Accidental cannabis overdoses by children are increasing nationwide, and these products will only make this worse.”

The products may contain high concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive compound found in cannabis, and if eaten by children, can lead to overdose. The most common overdose incidents among children involve ingestion of edible cannabis foods, according to the Department of Homeland Security, and such nonfatal overdoses are on the rise.

In the first nine months



Marijuana edibles can resemble common snacks. **RICHARD VOGEL/AP**

of 2020, 80% of calls related to marijuana edibles to the Poison Control Center involved children. In the first half of this year, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reports poison control hotline calls have received an estimated 2,622 calls for services related to young children ingesting cannabis products.

The Connecticut Poison Control Center received 88 calls in 2020 regarding child exposure to edible marijuana, and 58 calls in the first

seven months of this year.

“While Connecticut recently legalized adult-use cannabis,” Tong said, “many of these products fall far outside the range of what will ever be safe or authorized for sale. If you see these look-alike products for sale, please report them to my office and take every measure to keep these away from kids.”

Under Connecticut law, cannabis products may not be sold under a brand name that is identical or simi-

lar to the name of an existing non-cannabis product. When retail establishments are licensed to sell cannabis, edible products will be subject to strict safety controls, authorities said.

“Keeping children safe requires constant vigilance,” Geary wrote, “and we all benefit from working together and looking out for one another.”

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Bin 228 in Hartford closes permanently after 18 years



Bin 228 Wine Bar, which has been in downtown Hartford for 18½ years, has closed, its owner announced on Facebook. **NICK CAITO**

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Bin 228 Wine Bar, which has been at 228 Pearl St. in downtown Hartford for 18½ years, has closed permanently, its owner announced on Facebook.

A post on Tuesday on the restaurant’s official page (facebook.com/bin228Hartford) read “Well, that’s a wrap. Thank you to every person who walked through my doors. Most of you came as guests or employees and so many have left as friends. The bin has been your place for first dates, birthdays and anniversaries. I am beyond grateful to all of you for helping to make my dream come true. I hope in some small way we made your days brighter and hope you will remember bin fondly. Thank you for letting us serve you for 18 amazing years. ... It was a hell of a good run! I

love you and I thank you. Bit of a gut wrench pushing that squeaky, heavy door closed for the last time.”

Bin228 Gastropub in Glastonbury, which also is owned by Alicia Roncari, is still open. A message left with Roncari was not immediately returned.

A post on Bin 228’s Facebook page on Dec. 5, 2020, predicted this outcome. “Little bin has been shuttered for 9 months and will most likely stay that way. ... We are sinking. Over 600 CT restaurants have closed. One bin will likely be closed for good,” the post said.

The restaurant, known for its small plates and extensive wine list, was especially popular with employees and guests at TheaterWorks, which is across the street.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

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A typical one-bedroom apartment at Arbor Rose in New Britain. **COURTESY OF JEROME HOME**

Jerome Home memory-care center getting \$11M expansion

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

When it’s completed next year, an \$11 million expansion will add 20 apartments to the memory-care center at the Jerome Home in New Britain, Hartford HealthCare officials say, substantially boosting the capacity of Arbor Rose.

Contractors are starting the project this month and anticipate completing it next October, with the first tenants moving in soon afterward. The Jerome Home had planned the expansion for years and was preparing to start in early 2020 when the pandemic sidelined the project.

“We are looking to move beyond COVID, which has consumed our focus and energy for over a year,” said Lori Toombs, executive director of Arbor Rose.

Arbor Rose was built in 2008 as an addition to the Jerome Home, which has served as a nursing home and assisted living center on New Britain’s West Side for the past 89 years.

Arbor Rose currently offers 65 apartments ranging from studios to one- and two-bedroom units. It provides dementia and Alzheimer’s care for those 60 and older, handling medication administration, meals and personal care. Activities include bingo, trivia, therapeutic music programs, group outings, stretching and wellness sessions, painting classes and more.

The expansion will include a wellness center and will provide more care for those requiring short-term rehab and outpatient services.

Arbor Rose is run as one of Hartford HealthCare’s senior services units and with the Jerome Home shares a 5.5-acre campus off Corbin Avenue. The facility bills itself as “a safe, secure home-like environment.”

In the most recent filing with the state, the Jerome Home reported having 89 residents, with more than 95% of them vaccinated.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com.

State offers \$10 Uber discount to dissuade impaired driving during holiday season

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut Department of Transportation has partnered with Uber to offer residents a discount code for the rideshare app, aimed at reducing impaired driving this holiday season as traffic fatalities rise across the state.

The discount code, “SAVETHENIGHTCT,” is good for \$10 off a ride between Tuesday, Nov. 23 and Jan. 14. The code can be entered any time between 5 p.m. and 4 a.m. until Jan. 14.

“Traffic fatalities are increasing at an unprecedented rate,” Joseph Giulietti, the department’s commissioner, said in a

statement. “It is a real crisis. If you, or someone you know, needs a sober ride — please, opt for a ride, and use this [code] to save the night — and potentially save a life.”

Funding for the program comes from a grant from the Governors Highway Safety Association in partnership with Uber, the department said. Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico and Texas state highway offices also received the grant.

Traffic fatalities spiked by more than 18% during the first half of 2021 over the same period last year, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The estimated 20,160 people killed in crashes nationwide

is the most projected by the department since 2006.

As impaired driving usually increases during the holidays, transportation officials expect a greater potential for potentially fatal motor vehicle crashes.

Studies suggest rates of impaired driving decrease when ride-share and ride-hailing services present safe alternatives.

According to a study published in June in the Journal of the American Medical Association, weekend “vehicle crash traumas” dropped by 38.9% for Houston residents under 30 after Uber entered the city in 2014. Motor vehicle crash traumas dropped by 23.8% for

people of all ages on Friday and Saturday nights, when crashes are more likely.

The office is promoting the Uber discount on social media with a focus on 18- to 34-year-olds, as well as at several locations across the state where alcohol is served.

“We are pleading with Connecticut drivers to be more vigilant and more responsible than ever,” Giulietti said. “We need to do everything we can to stop this trend.”

The code “SAVETHENIGHTCT” can be redeemed directly in the Uber app.

smcavoy@courant.com

TORRINGTON

Two arrested for alleged home invasion

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Torrington police arrested two people for allegedly breaking into a residence early Wednesday morning and attempting to forcefully recover personal belongings in what police are calling a “family violence incident.”

Police received a 911 call just prior to 1 a.m. reporting an armed home intruder at a residence on Dutton Hill.

Responding officers identified two people, Jacob Greene, 29, of Windsor, and Cassie Lucca, 19, of Canton, who broke into the home by

breaking a door window of the basement apartment, police said. Police said Greene had a paintball gun that was shaped like a pistol and resembled a real gun.

According to police, Greene pointed the attached laser sight at the occupant of the home and demanded the occupant turn over personal items that previously belonged to Lucca. The items included clothing and a painting, which police said Lucca left behind at the apartment during a previous relationship.

Greene and the occupant then got into a fight, police

said, with Greene striking the occupant while on top of him. The occupant disarmed Greene and struck him over the head with the paintball gun, according to police, causing Greene and Lucca to leave the apartment. They were then detained by police.

Greene was taken to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital to receive treatment for a small laceration on his head, police said, while Lucca was taken to Torrington police headquarters. Torrington detectives continued the investigation at the residence.

Greene and Lucca were both charged with home invasion, first-degree burglary and first-degree robbery, among other charges. Greene was also charged with illegal use of a fake gun and third-degree assault.

Greene is being held on a \$400,000 cash bond, and Lucca is being held on a \$100,000 cash bond. Both were scheduled to appear in court in Torrington on Wednesday morning.

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.

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Hartford Courant

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert J. Fillion (21-00855)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michelle Bourgoin, 160 W. Washington Street, M3, Bristol, CT 06010
11/25/21 7092318

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Peter E. Pool, Late of Essex (21-0683)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, Saybrook, by decree dated November 19, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Roberta L. Pool
c/o STEPHEN R CLINE, CARR, DOUGLAS CLINE, 12 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3, PO BOX 366, ESSEX, CT 06426
11/25/2021 7093009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Susan M. Callahan Howe (21-0720)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Julia Arnaz
c/o Jeffrey Daniel Lynch, Perkins & Assoc., 30 Lucy Street, Woodbridge, CT 06525
11/25/21 7092421

**LEGAL NOTICE
OLD SAYBROOK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room located at 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook and via teleconference

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96174417686?pwd=Zk1kNmV2VlI3VVV1TUNINEZRSE60QT09>
Meeting ID: 961 7441 7686
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,96174417686#
to hear the following:

21/22-08 6 Center Road West, LLC, appeal of the Zoning Enforcement Officer's Cease & Desist Order dated August 18, 2021 for property located at 6 Center Road West, Map 26/Lot 6-9, Gateway Business B-4 District

21/22-10 Alfredo & Sandra Botet seek a variance of Par 10.7.1 & 10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 24.5.1 as amended by Par 68.1.2 (narrow street setback/ required 30' to Beechwood/6'5" to steps and 10'1" to building proposed); Par 24.5.1/street line setback/required 25' to Neptune/ 19'2" proposed; Par 24.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/8'8" proposed); and Par 24.6.2 (structure coverage/20% allowed/26.9% proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 676.4 s.f., second story addition and conversion of a 288 s.f. carport to an attached garage at 24 Beechwood Road, Map 4/Lot 207, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone.

At this hearing, interested persons may appear or submit written communication in advance. Plans are available for review in the Land Use Department, 302 Main Street and at oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-board-appeals

Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals
Robert J. McIntyre, Chairman
11/25, 12/02/21 7087079

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Salvatore J. Martelle, Sr., AKA Salvatore J. Martelle (21-0642)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 19, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Betty A. Limberger-Martelle
c/o Kerry E. Knobelsdorff-McKay, Knobelsdorff Law Office, LLC, PO Box 809 Old Saybrook, CT 06475
11/25/21 7092460

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Alex Benjamin Brown (21-00799)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Wylene Haslam
c/o JOSEPH M MERLY, 79 GRANVILLE AVE., MILFORD, CT 06460
11/25/21 7092232

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Essex Planning and Zoning Commission will hold the following public hearing on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Essex Town Hall 29 West Avenue Essex, CT (see agenda on Town's website www.essexct.gov for further details), at 7:00 p.m. to hear the following application:

PZC Application 21-11 Special Exception for 7 Main Street for the conversion of the existing building to retail and proposed interior second floor addition for warehouse, storage, breakroom, offices and mechanicals. Applicant: Essex Village Enterprises, LLC Owner: Liberty Bank

Copies of the application are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and Land Use Department at Essex Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town's webpage.

Essex Planning and Zoning Commission
Carey Duques, AICP CZEO
11/25/2021 7089517

**LEGAL NOTICE
OLD SAYBROOK PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut will hold a public hearing at its regularly-scheduled hybrid meeting on December 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m. in the 1st floor conference room of Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and via teleconference, concerning the following:

"Martin" Application for Resubdivision of Land: 5.93 acres into 2 lots
129 Bokum Road (Map 61/Lot 4), Residence AAA District
Applicant/Owner: Theresa & Wayne Martin
Agent: Robert L. Doane, Jr., PE.

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/9569833313?pwd=NndRm1IenJPSUJB eDVyHtMERDQT09>
Meeting ID: 956 9833 3313
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,9569833313#

At this hearing, interested persons may call in to be heard or may submit written communications in advance to the Land Use Department, 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Copies of application and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, between the weekday hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

OLD SAYBROOK PLANNING COMMISSION
11/18, 11/25/2021 7076536

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Velma M. Martone, Late of Killingworth (21-0681)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michelle L. Martone
c/o STEPHEN R CLINE, CARR, DOUGLAS CLINE, 12 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3, PO BOX 366, ESSEX, CT 06426
11/25/21 7092047

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Romy C. Schultz (21-0712)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 16, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Suzanne Brown Walsh
c/o Shera Gittleman Golder, Murtha Cullina LLP, 280 Trumbull Street, 12th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103
11/25/21 7091959

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Francisco Camacho (21-00827)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Doris G. Camacho
c/o HEATHER LYNN PERBECK, LAW OFFICE OF WALTER A. CLEBOWICZ, 114 WEST MAIN ST., STE. 101, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051
11/25/21 7092291

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT G. HELLSTROM, late of East Hampton (21-00306)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region #14 Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Monika L. Graham, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
ERIK S. YOUNG, ERIK S. YOUNG, PC., 11 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 8., MARLBOROUGH, CT 06447
11/25/21 7092399

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF David Carlson, Late of Killingworth (21-0300)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, Saybrook Probate, by decree dated November 18, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
STEVEN M ALLINSON, ALLINSON & ASSOCIATES, LLC, 439 MAIN STREET, YALESVILLE, CT 06492

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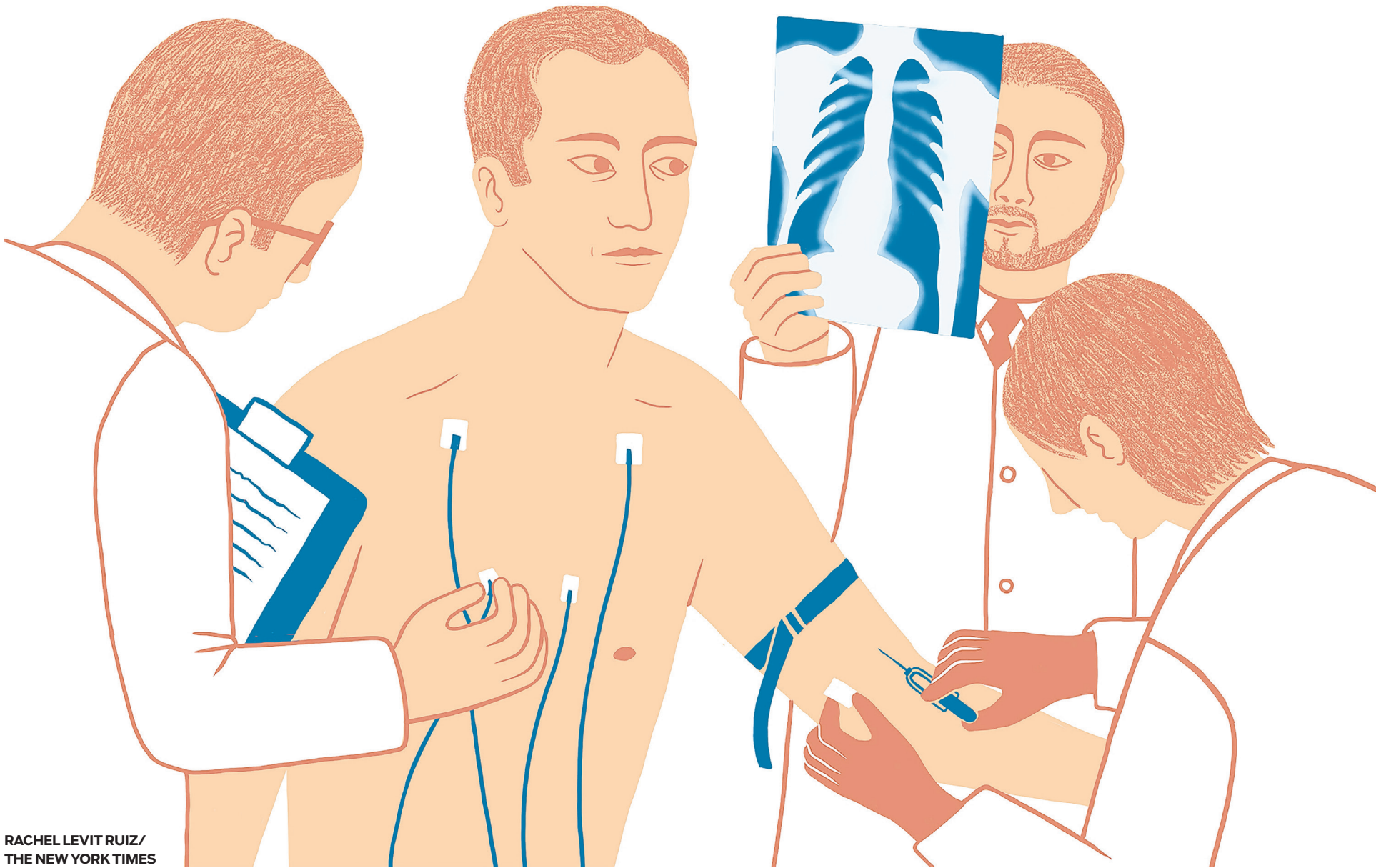


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RACHEL LEVIT RUIZ/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PREOPERATIVE PERSISTENCE

Doctors continue to order tests before surgeries despite growing research many waste time, money and can result in complications

By Jane E. Brody
The New York Times

Let's say you're scheduled for a common and relatively low-risk operation, such as a cataract removal, hernia repair, or a hip or knee replacement. It's normal to feel anxious about any surgery.

But what if one of the presurgical tests your doctor orders — for example, a chest X-ray or cardiac stress test — turns up something unexpected, such as a suspicious nodule or a mild heart abnormality? Now you have even more reason to worry, and your surgery will probably be delayed until further tests assure the doctor it would be safe to operate.

Experts say that presurgical testing is often unjustified for many common operations. Many of these tests are a waste of time and money, a growing body of research shows, and the tests themselves can sometimes result in complications.

For more than two decades, experts in various medical specialties — including cardiology, ophthalmology and anesthesiology — have issued guidelines directed at reducing preoperative tests that rarely provide findings relevant to patient's surgical risk. Yet practicing doctors often do not follow this advice. Guidelines published in 2002 from the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the American Society of Anesthesiologists resulted in almost no change in doctors' presurgical orders nearly a decade later, according to a report in JAMA Internal Medicine. The only exception was a decline in the use of electrocardiograms, or EKGs, a noninvasive test that checks heart

function at rest.

Sometimes a preoperative test of questionable value results in unanticipated complications, as happened to a man in his 50s scheduled for repair of a painful hernia. Two Colorado doctors reported in 2014 that the man's lab tests and physical exam were normal. But a chest X-ray, ordered because he had a history of mild asthma, suggested he had a nodule on a lung. Doctors delayed the surgery until he got a CT scan, which did not confirm a lung nodule but did find one on an adrenal gland. Again, doctors postponed surgery to allow for further work-up of the adrenal nodule, which was found to be benign. The man finally had his hernia repaired after six additional months of debilitating pain and repeated anxiety over incidental test findings suggesting he could have cancer.

However, doctors are making some headway. In 2019 in JAMA Internal Medicine, Dr. John Mafi, an internist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and his colleagues described an effort to reduce "low-value preoperative care" for patients about to have cataract surgery. New guidelines were issued, and a specially trained quality improvement nurse advised the surgeons about the new recommended protocol. The result, as assessed in a controlled clinical trial of 1,054 patients, was a dramatic decline in preoperative testing, a significant projected cost saving after the first year and "no measurable adverse effects" on the patients' surgery, he said.

Perhaps most problematic among common preoperative procedures is a cardiac stress test, which assesses blood flow to the heart while patients exercise. Dr. Alana Sigmund, an inter-

nal medicine physician at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York who has studied physicians' responses to preoperative guidelines, said, "Cardiac stress testing is overordered. If there's no indication of a heart problem, like shortness of breath, there's no reason to do this test prior to surgery."

Experts suggest you ask whether prescribed tests would reveal anything relevant to your surgical risk that the doctor could not determine by asking you a few questions during a routine physical.

The latest guidelines, which the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association issued in 2014, advise that a cardiac stress test before surgery is generally not recommended for patients lacking symptoms suggestive of heart disease. The guidelines leave the decision to test up to the doctor. Existing evidence shows no health or lifesaving benefit from a preoperative stress test when the patient lacks cardiac symptoms or has fewer than two major risk factors for having a heart attack, such as high blood pressure and smoking, especially when the prospective surgery itself is low risk.

Yet despite these guidelines and a national campaign called Choosing Wisely, aimed at curbing unnecessary tests and procedures, a recent study

by Dr. Daniel Rubin and his colleagues at the University of Chicago found that many doctors persist in ordering preoperative stress tests among patients at very low risk for cardiac complications. The study, published in JAMA Cardiology in January, looked at more than 800,000 patients having a hip or knee replaced, which is usually considered a low-risk surgery. It found that nearly half the patients who were given a preoperative stress test had no cardiac risk factors that might justify its use. Furthermore, the stress test did not lessen the risk of suffering a heart attack or cardiac arrest during or immediately after surgery, even among patients with one or more cardiac risk factors.

In fact, the stress test might have been counterproductive. For reasons Rubin could not explain, patients without risk factors who were given a cardiac stress test had double the surgical-complication rate experienced by comparable patients who did not have one.

Experts suggest you ask whether prescribed tests would reveal anything relevant to your surgical risk that the doctor could not determine by asking you a few questions during a routine physical. For example, answering a simple question such as "Do you get out of breath climbing a flight of stairs or walking four city blocks?" might provide a quick assessment of whether you might be having heart symptoms.

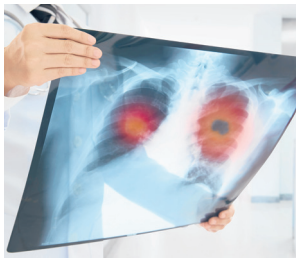
Mafi suggested that patients can help by questioning what a particular test might show and whether it's really needed. Also helpful, he said, is to choose a doctor "who's thoughtful, takes time to listen and is judicious about testing. You don't have to order 100 tests if just one test will do."

Association reports lung cancer survival rates keep improving, but not for all

HealthDay News

Lung cancer survival rates in the United States continue to rise, but certain racial groups are still hit hard by the disease, the American Lung Association reports.

Its fourth annual "State of Lung Cancer" report shows that the average five-year survival rate increased from 14.5% to nearly 24%, but it remains at 20% for people of color overall, and 18% for Black Americans.



GETTY

"The report highlights important news — more people are surviving lung cancer; however, it also underscores the fact that,

sadly, health disparities persist for communities of color," said Harold Wimmer, national president and CEO for the lung association.

"Everyone deserves the opportunity to lead a full and healthy life, so more must be done to address these health disparities," he added in a lung association release.

The disparities were not confined to race, with wide variances seen among different states: The high-

est overall survival rate was in Connecticut (nearly 29%), while the lowest was in Alabama (just over 18%).

Nationwide, only 24% of cases are diagnosed at an early stage when the five-year survival rate is much higher (60%), while 46% of cases are not detected until a late stage when the survival rate is only 6%. Early diagnosis rates are best in Massachusetts (30%) and worst in Hawaii (19%).

Lung cancer screening

with annual low-dose CT scans for those at high risk can reduce the lung cancer death rate by up to 20%, but only about 6% of those at high risk are screened. Massachusetts has the highest screening rate at about 18%, while California and Wyoming have the lowest at 1%.

The report also found that just over 21% of all patients receive no treatment.

While some reasons for nontreatment are unavoid-

able, the association said no patients should go untreated due to lack of knowledge or a health care provider, stigma, cost of treatment, or fatalism after diagnosis.

Another finding was that people of color have worse outcomes than white people, including a lower likelihood of being diagnosed early and of having surgery, and being more likely to receive no treatment, according to the report.

CELEBRITIES

Shepherd to return as ‘Williams’ host

From news services

Sherri Shepherd appears to be the guest host with the most when it comes to “The Wendy Williams Show.” The Emmy Award-winning funny-woman has been tapped to return to the nationally syndicated talk show in December amid Williams’ ongoing health issues. Noting her previous stints earned the chat-fest its highest ratings, show producers officially announced Shepherd will handle the chores from Dec. 13 to 17.

“I was thrilled to learn that my hosting week in November was so well received by the loyal viewers of this show,” Shepherd said. “... It’s been a dream come true, and I can’t wait to bring back my brand of flirty-fun, fabulous guests and feel-good excitement when I return in December.”

Williams, 57, hasn’t hosted the show since it returned Sept. 20 for its 13th season.

Redmayne calls playing trans woman ‘mistake’: Eddie Redmayne says he should have turned down his Oscar-nominated role as a transgender woman in “The Danish Girl.”

“I made that film with the best intentions, but I think it was a mistake,” the English actor, 39, told the Sunday Times of the 2015 romantic drama.

“The bigger discussion about the frustrations around casting is because many people don’t have a chair at the table. There must be a leveling, otherwise we are going to carry on having these debates.”

In Tom Hooper’s biographical film, Redmayne starred as Lili Elbe, one of the first known recipients of sex reassignment surgery. Criticism followed for casting a cisgender actor, rather than a trans woman. When



Sherri Shepherd, seen Nov. 21, will guest host “The Wendy Williams Show” from Dec. 13 to 17. **AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY**

the film was released, Redmayne defended his role, saying that “one should be able to play any sort of part if one plays it with a sense of integrity and responsibility,” but acknowledged that there should be “more trans actors and trans actresses playing trans parts.”

Singer Shenandoah dies: Joanne Shenandoah, 63, the Native American singer-songwriter who performed before world leaders and on high-profile stages, has died. The Native American Music Awards & Association posted on its website that Shenandoah, described as “Native America’s musical matriarch,” died Monday after complications of abdominal bleeding.

Shenandoah was a member of the Wolf Clan of the Oneida Nation. She was among the artists who contributed to “Sacred Ground: A Tribute to Mother Earth,” which won the Grammy award for Best Native American music album in 2006, and was nominated twice

for Grammys for her own recordings.

Actor LaFleur dies: Art LaFleur, 78, the prolific character actor who portrayed baseball players Babe Ruth in 1993’s “The Sandlot” and Chick Gandil in 1989’s “Field of Dreams,” has died after a 10-year battle with atypical Parkinson’s disease, his wife said on Facebook. LaFleur often played the cop, the dad, the coach, the tough guy. On TV, he appeared in “Hill Street Blues,” “Thirtysomething,” “ER,” and “Key and Peele.” Other movie roles included parts in “Cobra,” “Air America,” “City Heat” and “Dahmer vs. Gacy.”

Nov. 25 birthdays: Actor Kathryn Crosby is 88. Actor Ben Stein is 77. Singer Amy Grant is 61. Actor Billy Burke is 55. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 55. Rapper Erick Sermon is 53. Actor Christina Applegate is 50. Actor Eddie Steeples is 48. Actor Kristian Nairn is 46. Actor Jill Flint is 44. Actor Katie Cassidy is 35. Actor Stephanie Hsu is 31.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Adult survivors of abuse must be heard

Dear Amy: I am a mom with two grown children, “Charlie,” 26, and “Liza,” 23.

Liza recently let me know that she and her brother were molested throughout their childhood by my sister-in-law.

I am terribly sad that my children thought they could not come to me and tell me this when it was happening. My heart breaks for them that they endured this alone.

My daughter has been in therapy for a while now and is dealing with it.

My son, however, has been using hard drugs for several years now.

I would like to tell him that I know what happened and offer to get him help.

This is obviously something that he does not want me to know. Should I respect his privacy, or should I tell him that his sister told me?

I am afraid if I say the wrong thing his drug use may spiral out of control again.

— *Heartbroken Mama*

Dear Heartbroken: You should be honest with your son. Please do not let his addiction control your willingness to face this heartbreaking challenge openly. You cannot control how he will respond, but I hope you will hold fast and stay in his corner.

Holding onto this secret must have been excruciating for both of your children.

You don’t mention any consequences for the adult who abused these children. I hope your daughter will permit you to attend a session with her therapist to discuss next steps,

including going to the police.

Male victims of sexual violence are an underreported demographic, and your son deserves to tell his story, to be believed and to receive help. Male survivor.org is a resource dedicated to male survivors, and those who love them.

Dear Amy: I have a family member who lives out of town. She has two children under the age of 4.

They are out of control, screaming, crying, running and climbing on everything in sight. They throw temper tantrums daily.

I work in early childhood education and have seen a gamut of behaviors, but these two are off the charts.

Their parents constantly overstimulate them by tossing them in the air and dangling them upside down.

Their mother looks like she is at the breaking point.

I feel like I can’t extend advice because it will look like criticism.

What is the answer to this situation?

— *Tired Before They Even Get Here*

Dear Tired: If you’ve worked as a childhood educator, surely you have seen other parents whose behavior amplified, rather than mollified, their children. Parents sometimes believe that countering overstimulation with more stimulation will somehow “fire out” their children, but as you know, overstimulated young children can’t focus, and tired children melt down.

There are ways to offer support, where you can

piggyback some gentle “coaching” onto your compassion in order to offer these overwhelmed parents some advice.

You might start by acknowledging that two children under the age of 4 is a lot, no matter how you slice it.

Obviously, the children won’t be climbing all over everything in your house, because you’ll calmly stop them and say, “You can’t climb on top of the furniture at my house, but over here is something you can do,” and point them toward a different activity.

If you are able to catch a quiet moment with these parents, you could start by simply asking them how things are going.

You can say, “Well, I’ve worked with a lot of kids, and I can see that your two are very active. It’s a lot! Let me know if you’d be interested in some tips and tricks I’ve learned over the years.”

Watching you interacting calmly and appropriately with these children might make the lightbulb go on for the parents.

Dear Amy: On the subject of holiday meal leftovers, several members of my family show up with carry-out containers, fill their containers, take them to the car and then come back to eat with the rest of the family. Now that’s gall.

— *Hungry*

Dear Hungry: I’d call that cheeky — as in, how chipmunks eat.

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Don’t forget your obligations to your nearest and dearest. Now it may be time to show your appreciation for all the sacrifices they’ve made. This might mean helping providing practical support to a struggling friend.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Indecisiveness could be wreaking havoc in your life. You may be struggling to choose a path. Deep down inside, you probably know your desires are in contrast to those of the people you love. Compromising your vision to placate others is a recipe for misery!

Gemini (May 21-June 20): It may feel like you’ve fallen short of your ideals recently. Give yourself a break and congratulate yourself on how far you have come! You might have been working with limited resources and making any progress at all in such a tough environment is admirable.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Money may be tight now. Resist the temptation to ask someone for a loan. Try to recall the last time you were in a tight spot — the secret to your past success has likely been following your heart. You feel things deeply for a reason, Cancer, so let your emotions guide you forward.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You could find yourself yearning for things you don’t have. This could be holding you back. Try to fill any emotional voids with gratitude instead of letting them swallow you. When you give thanks for whatever prosperity you currently have, your blessings tend to expand.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The pressure of a routine could be getting to you. You pride yourself on staying committed and doing quality work even in trying circumstances. Don’t let this force you to remain in a bad situation. Move on. There’s no need to publicize your decision — simply continue quietly.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Depriving yourself of pleasure is a losing proposition. In fact, it may only cause the people around you to take advantage of you! Allow yourself a break. Everyone will just have to learn to manage without you — which could cause them to treat you with more appreciation.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It might be time for an attitude adjustment! Treat others how you want to be treated. This could be especially true in close partnerships, as a person who is close to your heart may no longer be willing to deal with any angry outbursts. Try absorbing and mirroring their laid-back ways.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The more negative feedback you give yourself, the harder it can be to make progress. Devote today to self-love! At first, this practice may seem deluded, but don’t stop trying. What you think, you become, so the more positive remarks you feed your brain, the more confident you can ultimately feel.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Working hard today is a waste of energy! Rather than doubling your efforts to get ahead, cut them in half. It may be better to wait than to act. Listening to others could trigger a breakthrough you didn’t expect. Sometimes an idle state is a good thing.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You might feel like you’ve hit a wall, both physically and emotionally. Although you may be tempted to push through your exhaustion, don’t! Your body is trying to tell you that it needs rest, and it’s your job to honor its signals. If you can’t take the day off work, then at least take it easy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Facing your demons may be critical at this time. Although you shouldn’t dwell on bad memories, sitting with them long enough to make peace with them is good for your emotional health. Forge a path of your own. Instead of asking for other people’s approval, follow your bliss and make no apologies.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Nov. 25, 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1835, American industrialist Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland.

In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, was commissioned.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1987, Harold Washington, the first black mayor

of Chicago, died in office at age 65.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

In 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959 and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

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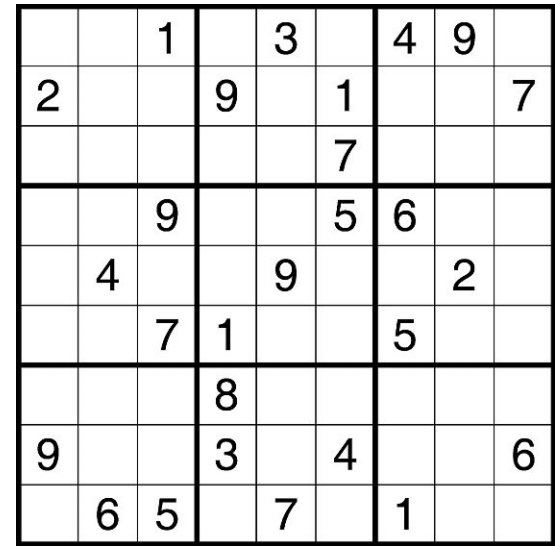
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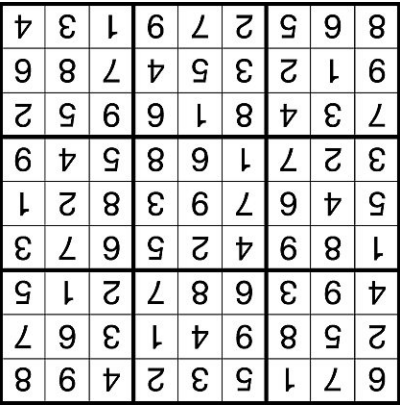
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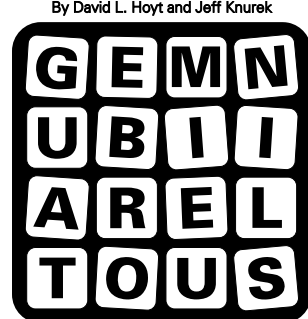
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



BOGGLE



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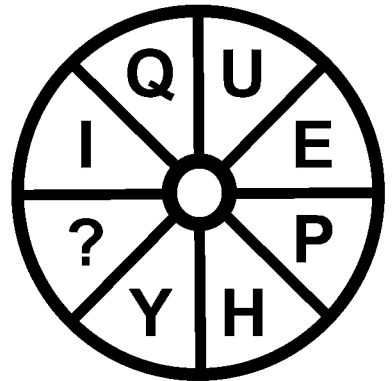
INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
(3 letters = 1 point)	1151+ = Champ
(4 letters = 2 points)	101-150 = Expert
(5 letters = 3 points)	61-100 = Pro
(6 letters = 4 points)	31-60 = Gamer
(7 letters = 5 points)	21-30 = Rookie
(8 letters = 6 points)	11-20 = Amateur
(9+ letters = 10 points)	0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE ZODIAC SIGNS in the grid of letters.

LEO LIBRA ARIES TAURUS GEMINI

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: picnic time

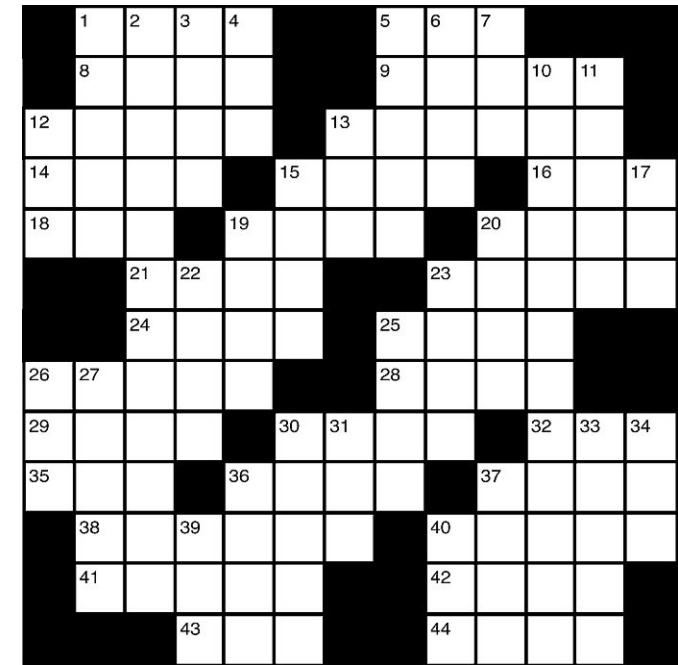
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



APPLE	DRINK	LEMONADE	SALT
BALL	FAMILY	LETTUCE	SANDWICHES
BANANA	FLASK	MAYONNAISE	SNOOZE
BEACH	FORK	MILK	SPOON
BLANKET	FRIENDS	NEWSPAPER	SUGAR
BOILED EGGS	FRUIT	PEPPER	SUN
BOOK	FUN	PLATES	TOMATO
BOTTLE	GRASS	READ	TREES
BREEZE	HAMPER	RELAX	UNWIND
CHEESE	JUICE	ROLL	WEATHER
CUCUMBER	KNIFE	SALAD	

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



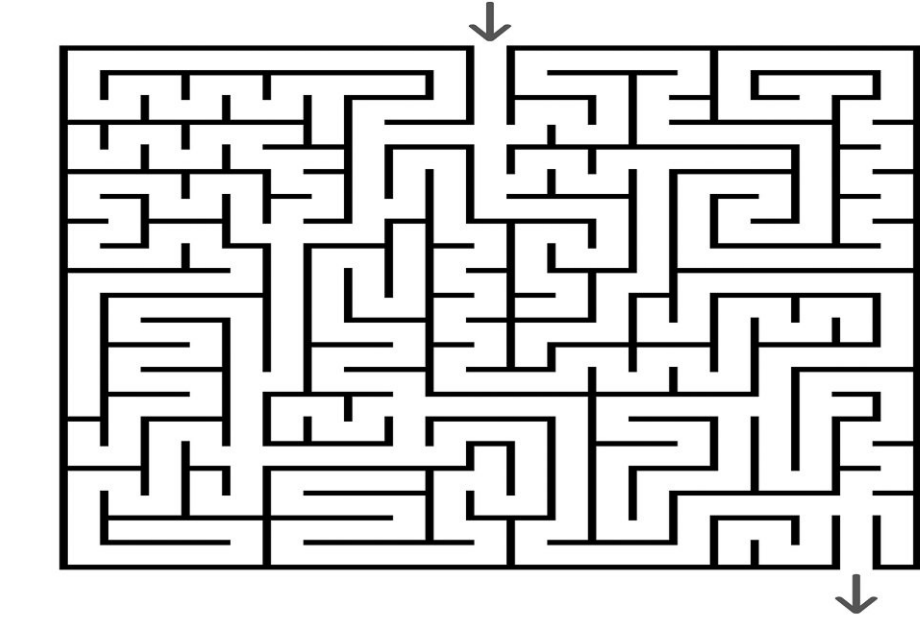
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 5/10/15

- ACROSS**
- "__ and the Tramp"
 - "Space __"; Michael Jordan film
 - Civil War Gen. Robert __
 - Fragrance
 - "__ World"; sitcom for Harry Anderson
 - "Last __ Hero"; Arnold Schwarzenegger movie
 - Enthusiastic
 - BPOE members
 - Nothing
 - TV room, perhaps
 - Football officials, for short
 - Hayworth or Moreno
 - October's birthstone
 - Blu, in the film "Rio," for one
 - Costello and Cariou
 - Costa __
 - "__ Standing"
 - El Paso school, familiarly
 - "Deal __ Deal"
 - Dad on "Little Family, Big World"
 - __ for; choose
 - __ driver; Ralph Kramden's profession
- DOWN**
- "__ It to Beaver"
 - Role for Elias Koteas on "Chicago P.D."
 - Owner's paper
 - "Say __ to the Dress"
 - Lord and Benny
 - Linkletter and Carney
 - Miss Piggy's word in referring to herself
 - Actress on "Parenthood"
 - Lt. __ Van Buren; role on "Law & Order"
 - "American __!"
 - Furry sitcom alien
 - Sargasso Sea diving dangers
 - "Harry's __"; Kathy Bates series
 - Actor __ Juliá
 - "The Amazing __"
 - Explorer Marco __
 - Barack's 2012 opponent
 - Ms. Buzzi
 - Cry
 - Confidence
 - Wetland
 - Beast of burden
 - Brad and his family
 - "__ a Little Tenderness"; hit song for Otis Redding
 - "__ the Press"
 - Big rig
 - Hampton or Holiday
 - eBay offer

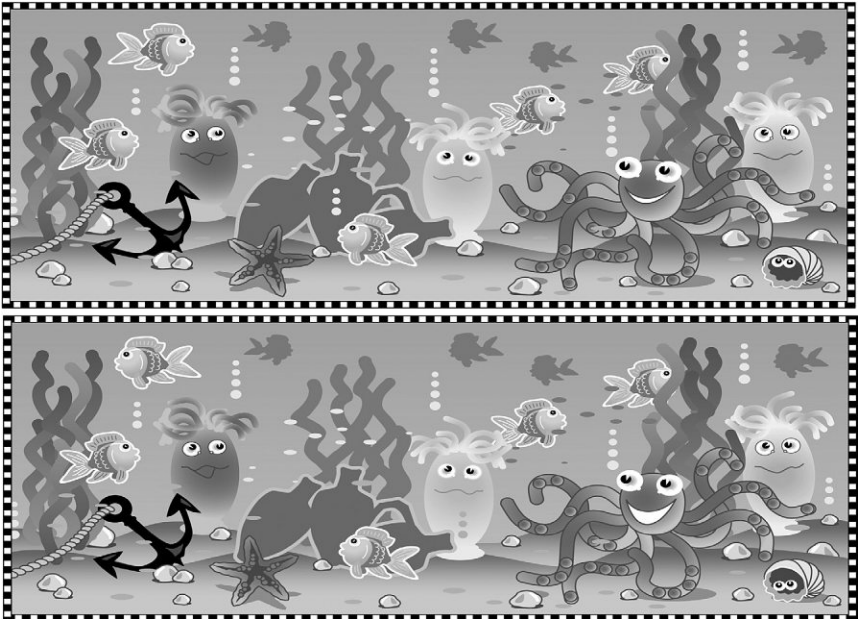


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KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



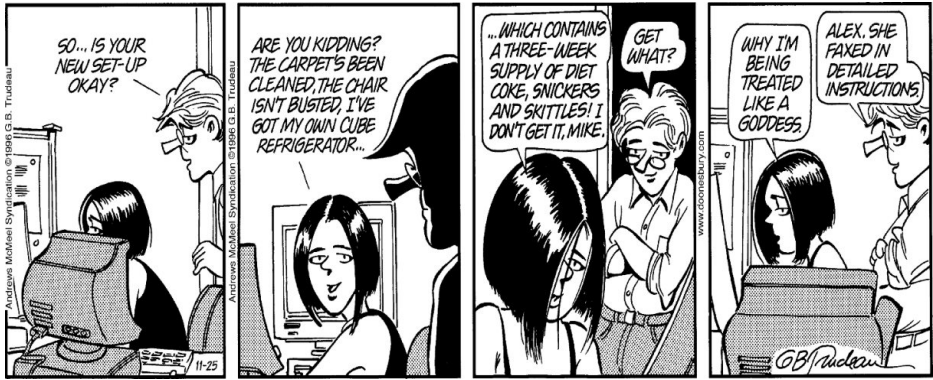
FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



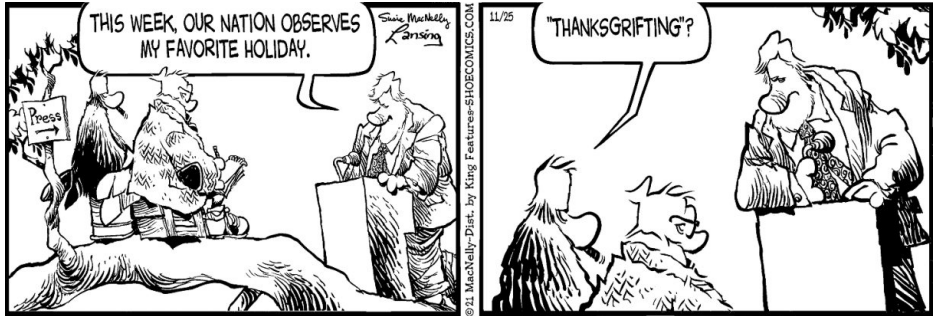
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



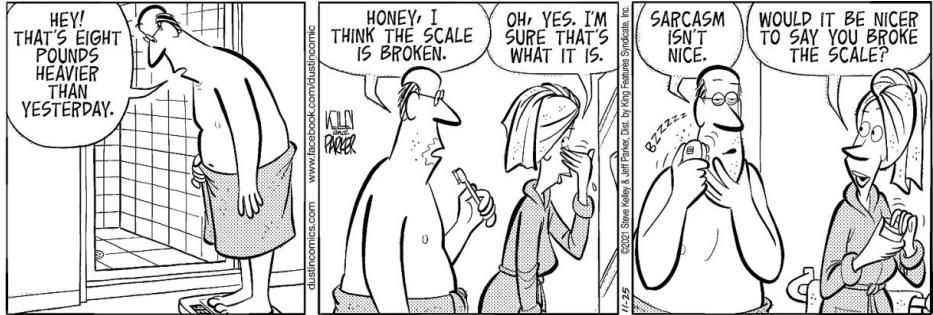
Garfield By Jim Davis



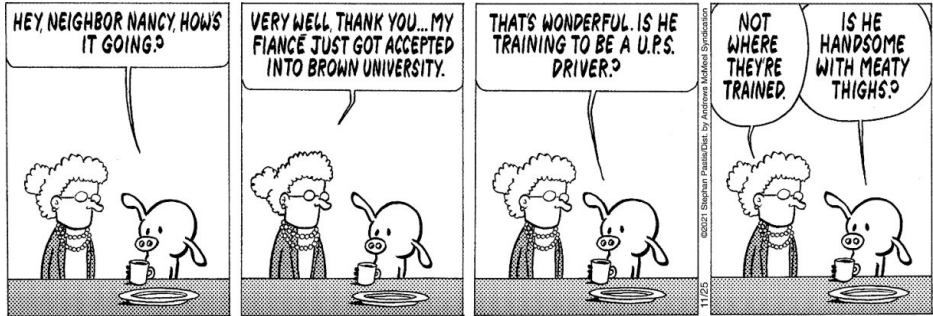
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



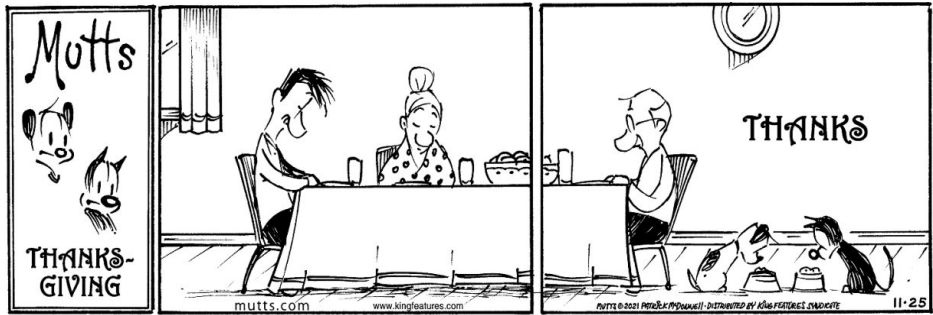
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



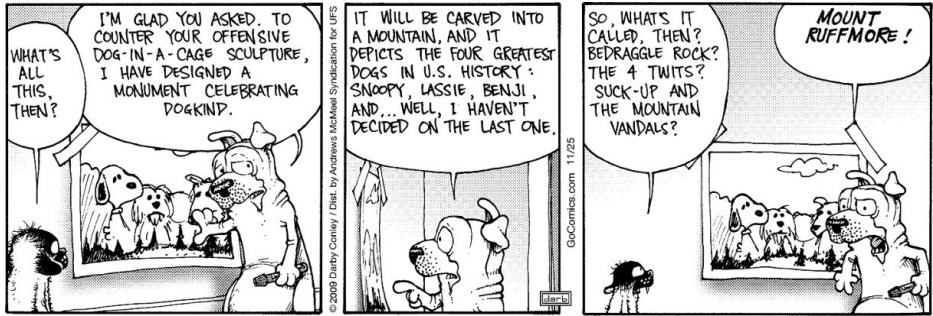
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



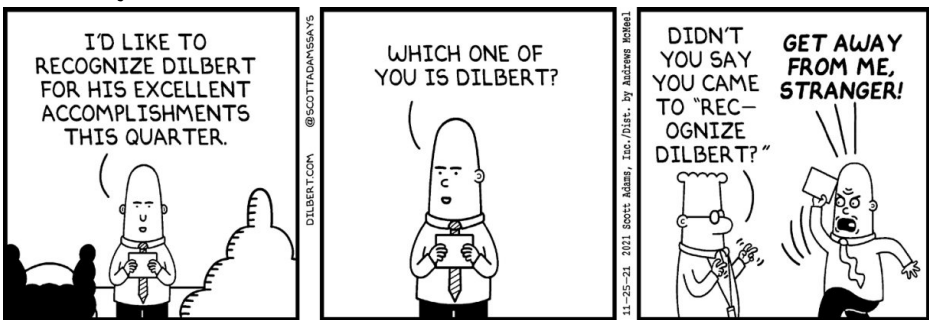
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



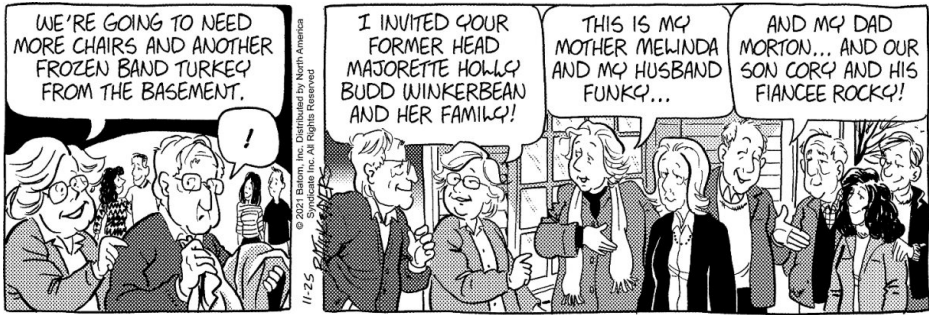
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



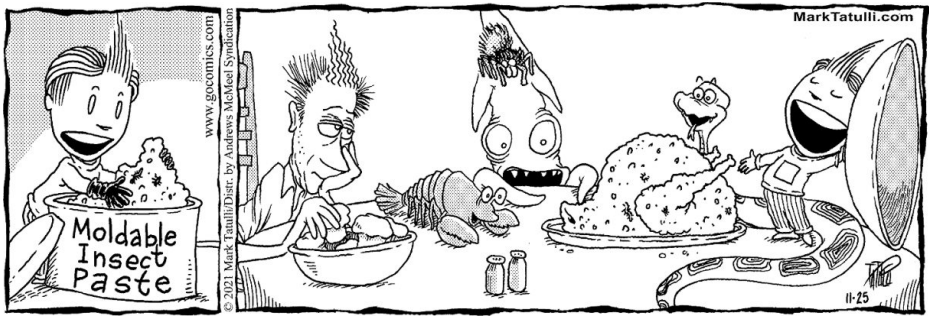
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



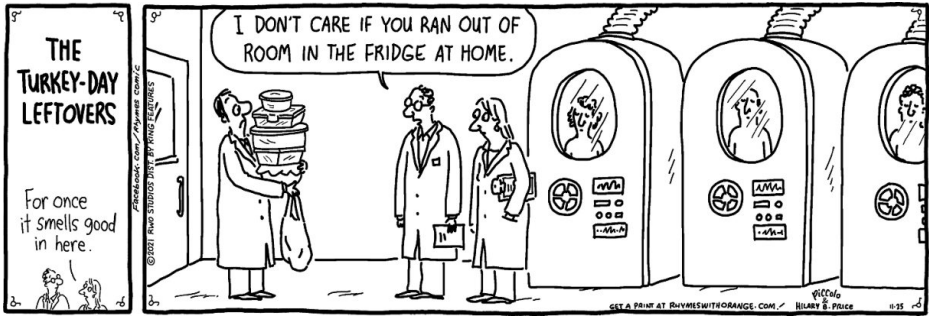
Lio By Mark Tatulli



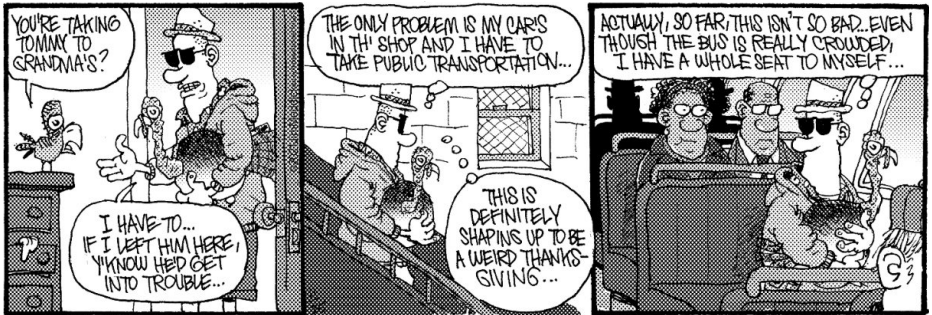
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



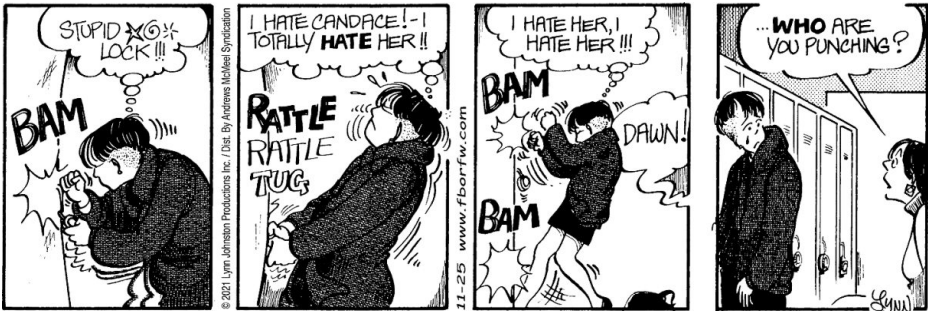
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



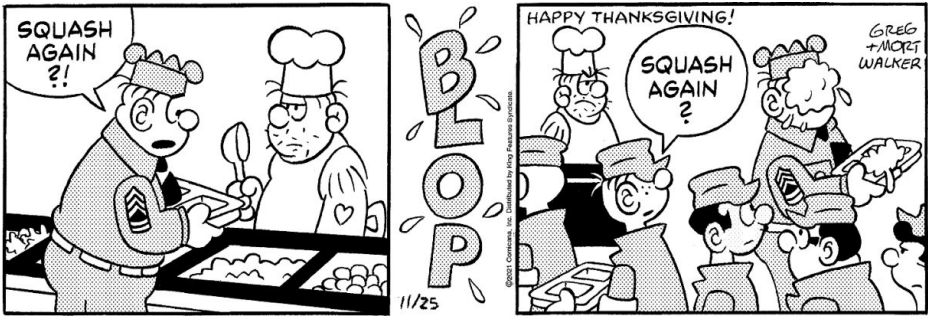
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



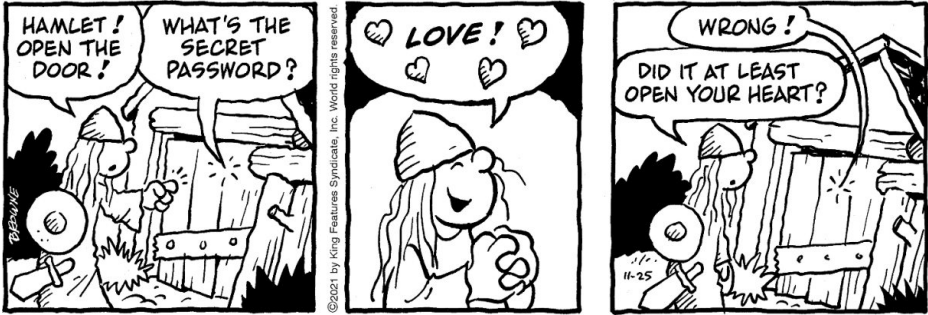
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



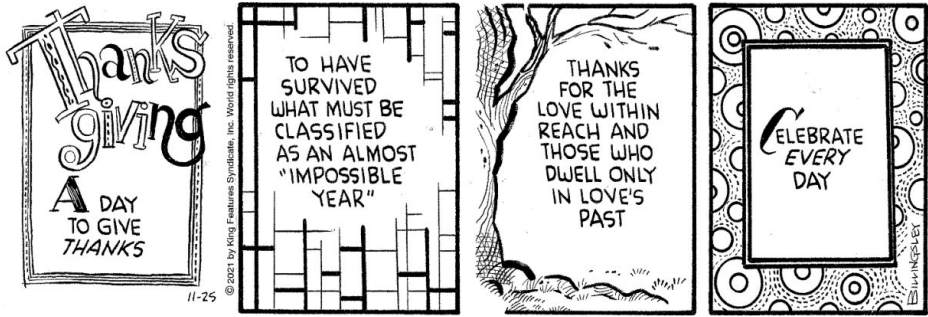
Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



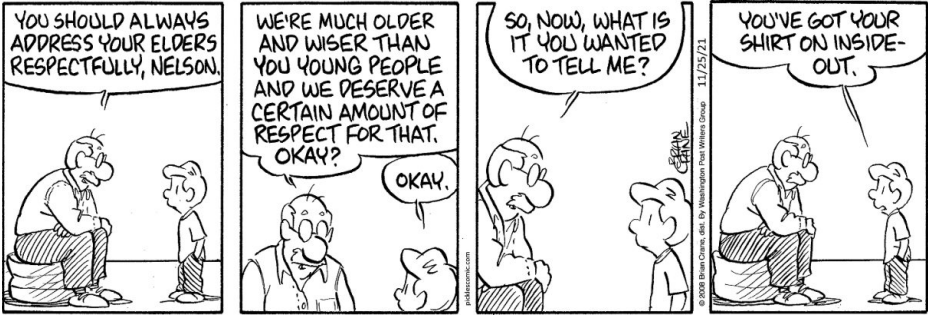
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



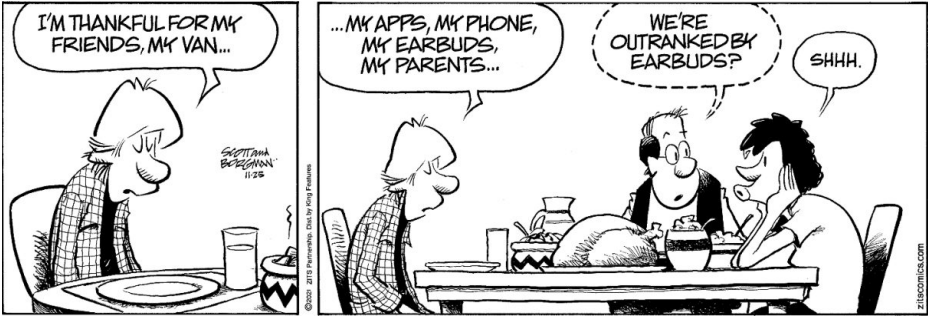
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



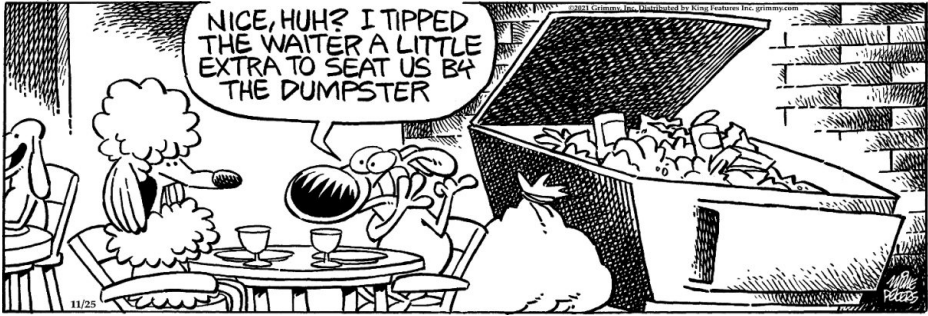
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



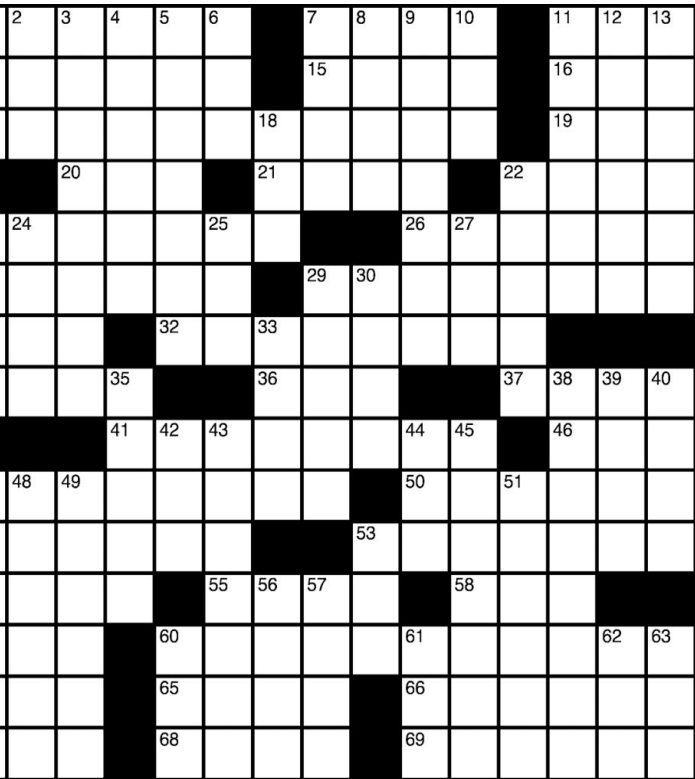
CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Name from the Arabic for "desert"
- 7 Siamese warning
- 11 Child support org.
- 14 Stir
- 15 "My bad"
- 16 Um cousins
- 17 *Country in much 2021 news
- 19 Argonne article
- 20 Stashed
- 21 King who banished Cordelia
- 22 *World's fifth-largest desert
- 23 *Key to more issues
- 26 Back-combs
- 28 Log-in credential
- 29 *Greek yogurt sauce
- 31 It's a liquid, paradoxically
- 32 "Dream on"
- 34 Work (out)
- 36 Part of NATO: Abbr.
- 37 Board sticker
- 41 Not laughing
- 46 Subject for Warhol
- 47 *Swindle
- 50 Edmonton NHL team
- 52 They don't skip stops
- 53 *Bands may leave the stage on either side of them
- 54 One of the Baldwins
- 55 Look at rudely
- 58 Half a cocktail
- 59 Karaoke aid
- 60 Acrobatic street moves ... or

- 10 One can't start with 666: Abbr.
- 11 House speaker after Ryan
- 12 He had all the answers
- 13 St. Clare's town
- 18 Out of work, maybe
- 22 Looked intently
- 23 Floor plans?
- 24 Biblical twin
- 25 Hoopla
- 27 "Yada, yada, yada" letters
- 29 Pluck, as a harp
- 30 Turns suddenly
- 33 Drama-free state in many a daytime drama
- 35 "Poison" plant
- 38 "___ Gothic"
- 39 Red inside
- 40 Cornhole attempt
- 42 Saints' gp.
- 43 Loser
- 44 Geologic time
- 45 Work with a steno
- 47 Sweethearts
- 48 Title role for Sue Lyon and Dominique Swain
- 49 Arctic covering
- 51 Temporary wheels
- 53 Reggae's ___-A-Mouse
- 56 Refined chap
- 57 Many a camp is on one
- 60 Support wear
- 61 Blot
- 62 Old U.K. record label
- 63 Eau Claire-to-Peoria dir.



By David P. Williams

Tribune Content Agency 11/25/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 9 8 5 2

♥ A 6

♦ 8

♣ A J 9 7 3

WEST

♠ 7 4

♥ K Q 10 7

♦ Q 9 6 3 2

♣ 8 2

EAST

♠ 6

♥ J 9 5 3 2

♦ K J 7 4

♣ Q 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 3

♥ 8 4

♦ A 10 5

♣ K 10 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

It's easy when you know how

Consider this deal where South got to six spades on the bidding shown. North's four-diamond bid (a "splinter") indicated the values for a game in spades while at the same time showing a singleton (or void) in diamonds.

West led the king of hearts, taken by dummy's ace. Superficially, it seemed declarer would have to guess which way to take the two-way club finesse to make the slam.

But South had been to the wars before and was not inclined to stake the outcome on guessing which defender had the queen of clubs.

Instead, he embarked on a line of play that assured the slam regardless of where the queen of clubs was located.

After cashing the ace of trump at trick two, he played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. This was

followed by a low trump to the king and another diamond ruff in dummy, setting the stage for a sure-fire endplay.

Declarer exited from dummy with a heart, and it did not matter which defender won the trick.

Whoever wound up on lead would next have to return either a club (trapping the queen) or a heart or a diamond (allowing South to discard a club as he ruffed in dummy).

The elimination play executed by South followed standard procedure. First, he eliminated suit No. 1 (spades), followed by suit No. 2 (diamonds).

He then put the enemy on lead with suit No. 3 (hearts) to force the return of suit No. 4 (clubs). That's how most elimination plays work.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HARBS

CITHH

CROUKN

DILNNA

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAZOR OUNCE TOMATO RIPPLE

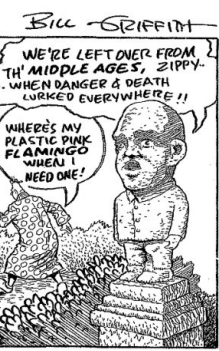
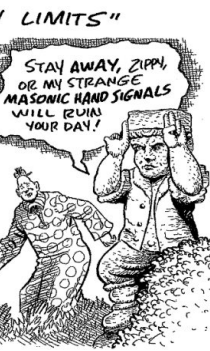
Answer: The convention's keynote speaker wasn't nervous at all thanks to all her — "PREP-ORATION"



ZIPPY



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Hartford Courant

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

RUNNING MANCHESTER ROAD RACE

Olympian, former champions return

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

U.S. Olympian Leonard Korir, the 2016 Manchester Road Race runner-up, will return to run the 85th edition of the 4.748-mile Thanksgiving Day race Thursday, as will former champions Sam Chelanga and Edna Kiplagat.

The race starts on Main Street in Manchester in front of St. James

Church at 10 a.m. There are 8,777 runners signed up and entries are closed.

The men's field includes Korir, a 2016 Olympian in the 10,000 meters from Colorado Springs who was just outkicked by Ben True at the finish line that year in Manchester. He'll be joined by 2013 winner and 2014 runner-up Sam Chelanga, also of Colorado Springs; 2019 and 2021 Falmouth Road Race winner Ben

Flanagan of Charlottesville, Va., and 2019 national indoor 2-mile champion Drew Hunter of Boulder, Colo.

The women's field includes Weini Kelati Frezghi of Flagstaff, Ariz., an Eritrean who became a U.S. citizen earlier this year and won the 5K national championship earlier this month; Edna Kiplagat of Boulder, who has won Boston, New York and the London Marathons as well as the 2019 Manchester Road Race at age

40 and Keira D'Amato of Milothian, Va., who recently finished fourth at the Chicago Marathon (2:28:22).

Race organizers required all elite athletes to show proof of vaccination. The regular runners are not required to do so. Organizers stated on the race's web page: "Although not legally required outdoors, we are urging everyone — runners, volunteers and spectators — to exercise sound judgment and respect

for others by wearing facial coverings and following social distancing protocols as much as possible at the road race and its associated events." Per the town of Manchester's rules, masks must be worn at any Manchester Road Race indoor event such as the awards ceremony, and on the race shuttle buses.

For more information on the race, go to manchesterroadrace.com.

PATRIOTS

Pats must solve their Vrabel problem Sunday

By Andrew Callahan
Boston Herald

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Twenty years ago, he helped found a dynasty.

Two years ago, he toppled it.

On Sunday, Titans coach Mike Vrabel will return to New England to inflict more damage, albeit as an underdog pitted against the NFL's hottest team. Though if there's a coach up to the task, seemingly it's Vrabel; the only headman in the league with an undefeated record against Bill Belichick after multiple meetings.

"Great guy, great energy. A lot like (Belichick)," said Pats tight end Jonnu Smith, who played under Vrabel in Tennessee. "Not as far personality-wise, but coaching styles and they demand a lot of their players, and that's what any great coach should do; wanting them to be the best and demanding their best every snap. You can't ask for better coaching than that."

At 8-3, the Titans lead the AFC, though they're physically and emotionally wounded after the hapless Texans upset them last weekend. The front office executed 13 transactions on Tuesday to patch roster holes at running back and wide receiver. Their home loss to Houston was the most surprising of the NFL season.

Less surprising would be a Tennessee win Sunday, though Vrabel's team is slated as a 6-point underdog. They've overcome doubt twice before to pound the Pats.

In 2018, Tennessee dismantled the Patriots 34-10 in Vrabel's first head-to-head meeting against Belichick. Smith, then a relative unknown, scored the game's first touchdown in a manufactured 1-on-1 matchup against former Pats safety Patrick Chung. The Titans sacked Tom Brady three times and held the Patriots to their lowest scoring output of the season with a masterful game plan that contained elements later successfully copied by the Steelers.

A complete showing of coaching wit and player strength.

Turn to Patriots, Page 4

Up next



Titans at Patriots
1 p.m. Sun., CBS

INSIDE

■ NFL teams look for something to be thankful for. **Page 3**

NO. 22 UCONN MEN 115, NO. 19 AUBURN 109 (2OT)



UConn forward Tyler Polley (12) is congratulated by coach Dan Hurley after making a 3-pointer against Auburn in the second overtime Wednesday at Paradise Island, Bahamas. Polley scored 24 points in the Huskies' 115-109 double overtime victory. **TIM AYLEN/AP PHOTOS**

It was for games like this that Polley, Whaley and Cole returned



Dom Amore

Tyler Polley wasn't ready to move on. With moments like this still in your dreams, and still possible, would you be?

Would Isaiah Whaley be? Or R.J. Cole?

They all came back for a fifth year of college at UConn, and they came back for moments like this, moments to show their will to win has been tempered into steel and they're more determined than ever to finish unfinished collegiate business.

So maybe it's a little too early to say a team has what it takes, but the Huskies sure looked like a team that does. There are four months to fix the flaws.

But while Auburn, the Huskies' first big-league opponent, exposed plenty of reasons for them to feel vulnerable, this grueling, palpitating,



Auburn guard K.D. Johnson (0) and UConn guard Andre Jackson (44) vie for the ball during the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament opener Wednesday.

ing, March-Madness kind of a game Wednesday also showed UConn's biggest reason for confidence: grown men are available when the situation calls for them.

"Big time," Cole said, after UConn's 115-109 win over Auburn in double OT at the Battle 4 Atlantis. "This is why you come to UConn, you want to be in games like these, be in moments like these and come out on top. Continue to weather the storm."

And was there ever a storm and a need for Polley, Whaley

and Cole to be there to lead the Huskies through it. After their 15-point lead was washed away by Bruce Pearl's relentless pressure defense, UConn needed Whaley to come up with the most important rebound of the day, needed Polley to hit a 3-pointer that helped send the game to overtime, needed Cole to come up with any number of momentum-changing baskets.

After UConn polished off the last of its four mid-major opponents, a lackluster win over

Turn to Amore, Page 4

With 2OT thriller, Huskies notch 1st win over ranked team since March 2020

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas— The UConn men's basketball team knew its Battle 4 Atlantis tournament opener Wednesday against No. 19 Auburn would be the toughest test yet.

Little did they know that test would look like a double-overtime instant classic in which the No. 22 Huskies had to fight through three of their starters fouling out, squandering a 15-point lead and hanging on in OT to come away with the 115-109 victory for one of the program's biggest wins under coach Dan Hurley.

It was UConn's first ranked win since March 5, 2020 versus Houston. Hurley is now 4-11 against ranked teams as head coach at UConn.

The Huskies (5-0) meet Michigan

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next



UConn vs. Michigan St.
Noon, ESPN

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn football: Houston, Saturday, noon
Patriots: Titans, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Texans, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: vs. Michigan State (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Thursday, noon; vs. TBD (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Friday, 11 a.m./1 p.m.; Maryland-Eastern Shore (XL Center), Tuesday, 7 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Seton Hall, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Notre Dame (Gampel), Dec. 5, noon; at Georgia Tech, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Spurs, Friday, 8:30 p.m.; at Raptors, Sunday, 6 p.m.; 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Suns, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Hawks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Nets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Suns, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Timberwolves, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Colgate, Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Merrimack, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Merrimack, Dec. 4, 3 p.m.
Bruins: Rangers, Friday, 1 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Bruins, Friday, 1 p.m.; Islanders, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Flyers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Saturday, 2 p.m.; Springfield, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

12 p.m.: College: Battle 4 Atlantis: Michigan State vs. UConn. (Live), ESPN
12 p.m.: ESPN Events Invitational - Dayton at Miami. (Live) ESPN2
2:30 p.m.: College Basketball (Taped) ESPN
2:30 p.m.: Battle 4 Atlantis, Consolation Round. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Maryland at Richmond. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Alabama-Birmingham at New Mexico. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: Battle 4 Atlantis, First Semifinal. (Same-day Tape) ESPN2
7:30 p.m.: ESPN Events Invitational - Belmont at Drake. (Live) ESPNU
9:30 p.m.: Louisville at Mississippi State. (Live) CBSSN
9:30 p.m.: Wooden Legacy - USC at Saint Josephs. (Live) ESPN2
9:30 p.m.: San Francisco at Towson. (Live) FS1
11:30 p.m.: Wooden Legacy - Georgetown at San Diego State. (Live) ESPN2
FOOTBALL
12:30 p.m.: Bears at Lions. (Live) FOX
3:30 p.m.: Fresno State at San Jose State. (Live) FS1
4:30 p.m.: Raiders at Cowboys. (Live) CBS
7:30 p.m.: Ole Miss at Mississippi State. (Live) ESPN
8:20 p.m.: Bills at Saints. (Live) NBC
GOLF
2:30 p.m.: Ladies Euro Tour Golf Andalucia Costa del Sol Open de Espana, First Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF
HOCKEY
2 p.m.: Rangers at Islanders. (Taped) NHL
SOCCER
4:30 p.m.: MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at Colorado Rapids. (Live) FOX
TENNIS
10 a.m.: Davis Cup Tennis Canada vs Sweden. (Live) SPRTNET
2 p.m.: World Team Tennis New York Empire vs. Springfield Lasers, Orange County Breakers vs. Chicago Smash. (Live) TENNIS

METS

Cohen steamed by Matz rejection

Left-hander signs 4-year contract with Cardinals

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — It’s not just front office executives rejecting the Mets. Add a former player to the list of people apparently dodging Flushing. Former Mets left-hander Steven Matz signed a four-year deal with the Cardinals on Wednesday morning. The Mets were one of at least eight teams competing for the southpaw, and owner Steve Cohen was apparently disappointed by Matz’s agency, Icon Sports Management, and their handling of the Mets offer.

Cohen tweeted: “I’m not happy this morning. I’ve never seen such unprofessional behavior exhibited by a player’s agent. I guess words and promises don’t matter.”

“We are aware of Mr. Cohen’s

tweet,” said Rob Martin, Matz’s agent, in a statement. “It’s unfortunate that he chose to take his frustrations to Twitter. I will not do the same, and instead will take the high road which is consistent with both my character and the character of our client.

“Steven Matz grew up a Mets fan, loved his time there, and continues to invest in the New York Community through his efforts supporting NY’s First Responders. As a result of all that, there was a strong pull to return to the Mets. But ultimately he made the decision he felt was best for him and his family.

“Steven is and always will be grateful to the Mets and Mets fans, but he now looks forward to his next chapter with the tremendous franchise in St. Louis.”

The Mets were reportedly ready to meet St. Louis’ four-year, \$44 million offer for Matz and had the impression he was ready to return to the team that drafted him in 2009. Matz reportedly changed his mind in the

end and agreed to join a rotation that includes Adam Wainwright and Jack Flaherty on the Cardinals.

Cohen’s emotional tweet comes days after he promised new GM Billy Eppler that the Mets would spend big on the free agent market. Cohen, in his second year owning the Mets since purchasing the team for \$2.4 billion, indicated he would spend significant money on free agents this winter to help improve the roster.

The Mets’ need for pitching depth is a top priority this offseason. Matz could’ve helped fill out the back end of the starting rotation while reuniting with his close friend, Jacob deGrom. The Mets will need to fill the Thor-sized hole that Noah Syndergaard left behind when he signed with the Angels last week. Marcus Stroman, one of 11 Mets who hit free agency this offseason, is not a guarantee to re-sign and stay in Flushing.

The Mets’ offer to free agent Matz was their first real activity this offsea-

son after wrapping up a seven-week search for a front office leader that saw multiple rejections before resulting in Eppler’s hiring. The acquisition of Matz, had it come to fruition the way Cohen expected, would’ve been Eppler’s first deal since officially becoming the Mets GM last Friday.

The starting pitching market is moving swiftly with just one week to go before an expected lockout. MLB owners and the players’ union are not expected to agree to a new CBA before the old one expires on Dec. 1. A lockout is expected to freeze all player transactions and quiet the sport during what has otherwise been a busy month in the hot stove.

Matz joins a long list of starting pitchers who already signed new deals or decided to stay with their clubs ahead of the lockout, including Justin Verlander (Astros), Eduardo Rodriguez (Tigers), Anthony DeSclafani (Giants), Alex Wood (Giants) and Syndergaard (Angels).



The Athletics' Jake Diekmann delivers a pitch during a game against the Mariners on Sept. 23 in Oakland, Calif. JEFF CHIU/AP

YANKEES

With Britton on shelf, here’s a shopping list

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The more one examines the Yankees’ roster, the easier it becomes to poke holes in it.

All-MLB performers Aaron Judge and Gerrit Cole are the only legitimate stars who will conjure up memories of the teams the Yankees put on the field in the late ’90s and 2009. Beyond them, there’s a track record of success from players like Giancarlo Stanton, DJ LeMahieu and Aroldis Chapman, but each of them have stains on their Yankee tenures, either from injuries or puzzling down years that seemingly came out of nowhere.

With the roster churn that characterizes each offseason, there’s often a tendency for one area of need to go overlooked. The Yankee front office could not be more cognizant of the fans’ distaste for Gleyber Torres and Gary Sanchez, birthing endless queries about what the shortstop and catcher positions will look like moving forward. But amid all the free agent chasing, Zack Britton’s elbow injury has slipped quietly under the radar.

In September, when all eyes were on making the playoffs, manager Aaron Boone casually mentioned that Britton’s season-ending reconstructive elbow operation was “essentially” Tommy John, a surgery that requires at least a year to recover from. That puts Britton on track to return in September 2022 at the very earliest, eliminating most of next season. At the GM meetings earlier this month, Brian Cashman said Britton seeing game action in 2022 is “possible toward the end, but it’s probable that you won’t see him.”

That’s a significant blow for the Yankees and Britton, who had a 2.22 ERA in 105.1 innings for the Bombers before being hampered by the elbow injuries that derailed both his 2021 season and his numbers. Knowing that Britton is, unfortunately, very unlikely to return to the pitcher he was in 2019 — his first full year with the Yankees when he had an absurd 77.2% ground ball rate — the Yankees moved quickly to bring back Joely Rodriguez.

Rodriguez was the best lefty in the bullpen last year, proving to be a great get at the trade deadline. But the plan was always for Britton to be the alpha lefty. He’s the one who once finished fourth in Cy Young

voting and 11th in the MVP race while pitching for the Orioles, and the one the Yankees gave \$39 million to put the clamps on teams in the late innings.

Should the Yankees look for a Britton replacement in the setup role — Jonathan Loaisiga was incendiary last year, but he threw over twice as many innings as he ever had in an MLB season, and relievers can be as erratic as the stock market — there are some viable candidates out there.

If Cashman wants to go with a true like-for-like replacement, he should look no further than Jake Diekmann. The wizened lefty has been a staple of MLB bullpens since 2012, and he’s aging tremendously. Both of Diekmann’s best strikeout rates have come in the last two seasons. While he needs to cut down on walks and homers, a death knell for relievers, Diekmann’s slider is still as nasty as ever. At 6-4 with a cross-body delivery, Diekmann’s vicious slider held lefties to a .121 average in 2021 as over half of their swings against it resulted in a whiff.

Andrew Chafin, a teammate of Diekmann last year in Oakland, is also a free agent after declining a \$5.25 million mutual option with the A’s. It’s easy to see why Chafin made that decision, as his most recent showing translates to much more money. By Wins Above Replacement, the mustachioed Chafin was the league’s 21st-best reliever in 2021, holding opponents to a .184 batting average and running a 0.93 WHIP.

At lower risks, the Yankees could hand out a one-year deal for very little money to obtain a guy like Sean Doolittle or Brad Hand. Both are undoubtedly past their primes but have one pitch that can still wreak hell on lefties, Doolittle with his fastball and Hand with his slider. These would be experiments for sure, but they also wouldn’t dent the payroll very hard. It’s unclear if Doolittle would be willing to shear his beard for the Yankees, though.

Of course, the team could also cut its losses on Britton and push forward without a left-handed stand-in. Devoting large swaths of capital to relief pitchers has also not worked for the Yankees recently (see: Justin Wilson and Darren O’Day). Knowing that, they may opt to duplicate the strategies that landed them Rodriguez and Clay Holmes, two strongholds in the bullpen that cost minor leaguers in a trade rather than millions in guaranteed money.

RED SOX

Sox should consider these free agent starting pitchers

Boston Globe

BOSTON — This offseason already features a very active market for starting pitchers, with teams treating them like Black Friday door-busters in advance of a potential lockout Dec. 2. The Tigers introduced Eduardo Rodriguez Monday, celebrating the signing of his five-year, \$77 million deal.

On the same day, the Giants announced the re-signing of righthander Anthony DeSclafani (three years, \$36 million) and reportedly neared a two-year deal to re-sign lefthander Alex Wood. Justin Verlander (two years, \$50 million with the Astros), Noah Syndergaard (one year, \$21 million with the Angels), and Andrew Heaney (one year, \$8.5 million with the Dodgers) also are off the board.

Lefthander Steven Matz has agreed to a four-year, \$44 million deal with the Cardinals, pending a physical. According to the source, the Red Sox made a “very strong” multi-year offer to the southpaw and were engaged in talks with Matz throughout his free agency.

The run will continue, but the deal-making is relevant for the Red Sox, who plan to be active in the starting pitching market with Rodriguez having departed.

— the two-year deal for Kiké Hernández last winter — and none with pitchers.

Middle tier

Carlos Rodón: Rodón is one of the most fascinating pitchers on the market. One NL evaluator described him as perhaps the most dominant starter in the AL on a per-inning basis in 2021.

Marcus Stroman: Stroman is perhaps the best true pitcher on the market, his command and ability to mix four pitches giving him a more solid floor than perhaps any other starter. But his strikeout rate is the lowest in this group, and though he gets grounders at an elite rate, the Red Sox were the worst team in the majors last year at turning ground balls into outs, making him a questionable fit for Boston unless the team upgrades its defense.

Jon Gray: He has sustained mid-90s velocity throughout his career, been roughly as durable as Matz, gets swings and misses with his fastball and slider, and his seldom-used curveball has potential to emerge as a more prominent pitch, creating the potential for a bump in a solid strikeout rate.

Short-termers

Rich Hill: The 41-year-old is coming off his highest innings total since 2007, and plans to seek another one-year deal for 2022 with a heavy priority placed on pitching for a contender. The Milton native said recently that he’s had some contact with the Red Sox, and there’s some mutual interest.

Corey Kluber: Kluber lives in Winchester, Mass., and had interest in pitching for the Red Sox and living at home a year ago. But coming off two injury-ravaged seasons, he opted to head to New York based on the expectation that the Yankees were closer to a title and on New York’s willingness to do a straight one-year deal rather than a one-year deal with an option.

Yusei Kikuchi: Most of his struggles down the stretch came against righties — a considerable issue in an AL East loaded with righthanded mashers — but despite ugly year-end numbers, he could appeal to a team willing to bet that his second-half decline was driven by the oddity of going from a 60-game season in 2020 to a 162-game campaign in 2021.

NHL

Big injuries and absences disrupt Thanksgiving benchmark

Associated Press

Bruce Boudreau does not believe in the NHL’s Thanksgiving rule. Which teams occupied playoff spots on the annual U.S. holiday had long been a strong indicator of who makes and misses the post-season. Recent 82-game seasons have put cracks in that theory, and a number of high-profile injuries and COVID-19 protocol absences make it even less of a factor this year.

“It’s an inordinate amount of

injuries that seems to (happen) every day and with the COVID and everything else, the deadline seems a little premature, I would think,” Boudreau said. “But you’re asking the wrong guy. I’ve always believed you could make the playoffs.”

Boudreau coached the Anaheim Ducks to the Pacific Division title in 2015-16 after sitting four points out of a playoff spot on Thanksgiving. He also took over the Washington Capitals when they were last in the league on Thanksgiving in 2007 and won the Jack Adams

Award as coach of the year for guiding them to the Southeast Division championship.

Is there a team that could pull off a similar worst-to-first run this season? Maybe the New York Islanders from last place in the Metropolitan Division — considering they opened with a 13-game road trip and have been without captain Anders Lee, forwards Josh Bailey, Kieffer Bellows and Ross Johnson and defensemen Adam Pelech and Andy Greene (all COVID-19 protocol), and defense-

man Ryan Pulock because of injury. The Islanders have lost 10 of their first 15 games.

“Obviously this isn’t what we envisioned coming into this season with our record where it’s at and the things that have been thrown at us as of late,” veteran forward Matt Martin said. “I wouldn’t say there’s a sense of panic. But there should be a sense of urgency. We know we’re a good hockey club.”

Ray Ferraro is more worried about the Islanders than, say, the Pittsburgh Penguins, who also lost

10 of their first 15 games without center Evgeni Malkin and were missing captain Sidney Crosby for long stretches before a winning streak boosted their chances. The former player-turned-ESPN analyst thinks the offseason attrition of losing Jordan Eberle to the Seattle expansion draft and Nick Leddy in a salary-cap saving trade has cut into New York’s depth.

Still, Ferraro concedes, “The Islanders, yeah, there’s lots of road left in front of them.”

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	13	5	.722	—
New York	10	8	.556	3
Boston	10	8	.556	3
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3
Toronto	8	10	.444	5
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	12	6	.667	—
Washington	11	6	.647	½
Charlotte	11	8	.579	1½
Atlanta	9	9	.500	3
Orlando	4	14	.222	8
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	12	6	.667	—
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	2
Cleveland	9	9	.500	3
Indiana	8	11	.421	4½
Detroit	4	13	.235	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	10	7	.588	—
Memphis	9	8	.529	1
San Antonio	4	12	.250	5½
New Orleans	3	16	.158	8
Houston	1	16	.059	9
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	11	6	.647	—
Portland	10	8	.556	1½
Denver	9	9	.500	2½
Minnesota	8	9	.471	3
Oklahoma City	6	11	.353	5
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	15	2	.882	—
Phoenix	14	3	.824	1
L.A. Clippers	10	8	.556	5½
L.A. Lakers	9	10	.474	7
Sacramento	6	12	.333	9½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte at Orlando, late
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, late
Phoenix at Cleveland, late
Brooklyn at Boston, late
Chicago at Houston, late
Detroit at Milwaukee, late
Miami at Minnesota, late
Toronto at Memphis, late
Utah at Oklahoma City, late
Washington at New Orleans, late
Atlanta at San Antonio, late
Philadelphia at Golden State, late
Portland at Sacramento, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, 3:30p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 7p.m.
Atlanta at Memphis, 8p.m.
Toronto at Indiana, 8p.m.
Washington at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Boston at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Denver, 9p.m.
New Orleans at Utah, 9p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 10p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Phoenix at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Charlotte at Houston, 8p.m.
Miami at Chicago, 8p.m.
Orlando at Cleveland, 8p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
New Orleans at Utah, 9p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Miami 100, Detroit 92
New York 106, L.A. Lakers 100
Portland 119, Denver 100
Dallas 112, L.A. Clippers 104, OT

SEASON SCORING LEADERS				
POINTS/GM	G	FG	FT	PTS
Durant, Brk	17	177	97	484
Curry, GS	16	146	76	454
Giannkmpo, Mil	17	159	118	457
George, LAC	18	173	75	475
Jokic, Den	14	144	56	369
DeRozan, Chi	18	166	126	474
LaVine, Chi	18	171	74	467

ODDS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	
Fresno St.	7½	(51½)	at San Jose St	2½
at Miss. St.	2½	(64½)	Mississippi	2½
Boise St.	2½	(44½)	a S. Diego St.	2½

FRIDAY				
at Texas	2½	(52½)	Kansas State	2½
Ohio	5½	(48½)	at Bowl. Green	5½
at C. Michigan	8½	(64)	E. Michigan	8½
Utah State	15½	(48½)	at N. Mexico	15½
at Nebraska	½	(41½)	Iowa	½
at UAB	13½	(50½)	UTEP	13½
at UCF	18½	(61½)	South Florida	18½
Cincinnati	14½	(57½)	at E. Carolina	14½
at Arkansas	14½	(62½)	Missouri	14½
at Air Force	17½	(49½)	UNLV	17½
Co. Carolina	15½	(56½)	at S. Alabama	15½
at Utah	23½	(51½)	Colorado	23½
at Iowa State	14½	(59½)	TCU	14½
at NC State	6½	(62½)	N. Carolina	6½
Washington St.	½	(43½)	at Washington	½

Navy	12½	(43½)	at Temple	12½
Ohio State	7½	(64½)	at Michigan	7½
Maryland	2½	(52½)	at Rutgers	2½
at Florida	2½	(58½)	Florida St.	2½
at Baylor	14½	(5½)	Texas Tech	14½
at Kent State	1	(65½)	Miami (Ohio)	1
Georgia	35½	(54½)	at Ga. Tech	35½
Houston	32½	(55½)	at UConn	32½
at Liberty	3½	(53½)	Army	3½
Wake Forest	5½	(64½)	at Bos. Coll.	5½
at Toledo	28½	(57½)	Akron	28½
Miami	21½	(68½)	at Duke	21½
Louisiana Tech	3½	(53½)	at Rice	3½
at Arkansas St.	1½	(62½)	Texas State	1½
at Georgia St.	6½	(50½)	Troy	6½
UTSA	10½	(59½)	at N. Texas	10½
at Old Dominion	9½	(55½)	Charlotte	9½
at Appal St.	24½	(55½)	Ga. Southern	24½
at N. Mex. St.	6½	(58½)	UMass	6½
at So. Miss.	10½	(45½)	FIU	10½
at Wyoming	10½	(47½)	Hawaii	10½
at Illinois	6½	(43½)	Northwestern	6½
Penn State	1½	(52½)	at Michigan St.	1½
at Oregon	7½	(60½)	Oregon State	7½
at Purdue	15½	(50½)	Indiana	15½
Alabama	19½	(55½)	at Auburn	19½
at Marshall	1	(74½)	W. Kentucky	1
at Tennessee	31½	(62½)	Vanderbilt	31½
at Virginia	7½	(62½)	Virginia Tech	7½
at Arizona St.	20	(52½)	Arizona	20
Wisconsin	7	(39)	at Minnesota	7
at SMU	6½	(62)	Tulsa	6½
Texas A&M	6½	(45½)	at LSU	6½
West Virginia	15½	(55½)	at Kansas	15½
at FAU	3½	(49½)	Mid Tenn.	3½
at Memphis	6	(58)	Tulane	6
at Oklahoma St.	4	(50½)	Oklahoma	4
at Louisville	3	(57)	Kentucky	3
Clemson	11½	(43½)	at S. Carolina	11½
Pittsburgh	13	(58)	at Syracuse	13
Notre Dame	20½	(53½)	at Stanford	20½
Nevada	4	(55½)	at Colorado St.	4
at UCLA	7	(57½)	California	7
BYU	7	(64½)	at USC	7

NFL WEEK 12				
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG	
Chicago	3	(41½)	at Detroit	3
at Dallas	7½	(51½)	Las Vegas	7½
Buffalo	6	(45½)	at New Orleans	6

SUNDAY				
Tampa Bay	3½	(51½)	at Indpls	3½
at Houston	2½	(44)	NY Jets	2½
Philadelphia	3	(46)	at NY Giants	3
Carolina	2	(43)	at Miami	2
at New Eng.	6½	(44½)	Tennessee	6½
at Cincinnati	4½	(45½)	Pittsburgh	4½
Atlanta	1½	(46½)	at Jacksonville	1½
LA Chargers	3	(47½)	LA Denver	3
at Green Bay	1½	(47½)	LA Rams	1½
at San Fran.	3½	(48½)	Minnesota	3½
at Baltimore	3	(46½)	Cleveland	3

at Washington 2 (46½)
For the latest odds, go to
FanDuel Sportsbook,
https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

SOCCER

MLS PLAYOFFS
Home teams listed first
EAST CONFERENCE FIRST ROUND
Nov. 23: Nashville SC 3, Orlando City 1
WEST CONFERENCE FIRST ROUND
Nov. 23: Salt Lake 0, Seattle 0 (RSL 6-5 pen)

EAST CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Sunday: #3 Nashville vs. #7 Phi, TBA
Tue: #1 New Eng. vs. NYFCF, 7:30 p.m.
WEST CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Thur: #1 Colo. vs. Portland, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: #3 SKC vs. Salt Lake, TBA

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	18	13	2	3	29	71	47		
Toronto	20	13	6	1	27	51	45		
Tampa Bay	18	11	4	3	25	59	52		
Detroit	20	8	9	3	19	54	67		
Boston	15	9	6	0	18	46	43		
Buffalo	18	7	9	2	16	53	61		
Montreal	20	5	13	2	12	44	70		
Ottawa	16	4	11	1	9	41	59		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	17	14	2	1	29	57	34		
Washington	19	11	3	5	27	64	44		
N.Y. Rangers	18	11	4	3	25	51	51		
Columbus	16	10	6	0	20	57	51		
Pittsburgh	18	8	6	4	20	54	52		
New Jersey	16	8	5	3	19	48	49		
Philadelphia	17	8	6	3	19	43	48		
N.Y. Islanders	15	5	8	2	12	31	47		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Minnesota	18	11	6	1	23	64	59		
St. Louis	18	10	6	2	22	61	49		
Winnipeg	18	9	5	4	22	55	48		
Nashville	18	10	7	1	21	50	50		
Colorado	15	9	5	1	19	61	49		
Dallas	17	8	7	2	18	47	52		
Chicago	19	6	11	2	14	42	63		
Arizona	19	4	13	2	10	34	69		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	20	12	3	5	29	68	38		
Edmonton	18	13	5	0	26	69	54		
Anaheim	19	10	6	3	23	63	51		
Vegas	19	11	8	0	22	59	59		
San Jose	18	9	8	1	19	46	51		
Los Angeles	18	8	7	3	19	47	46		
Vancouver	19	6	11	2	14	46	62		
Seattle	18	5	12	1	11	52	68		

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Boston at Buffalo, late
Minnesota at New Jersey, late
Montreal at Washington, late
Philadelphia at Florida, late
Vancouver at Pittsburgh, late
Winnipeg at Columbus, late
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders, late
St. Louis at Detroit, late
Vegas at Nashville, late
Anaheim at Colorado, late
Carolina at Seattle, late
Edmonton at Arizona, late
Toronto at Los Angeles, late
Ottawa at San Jose, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Rangers at Boston, 1p.m.
Carolina at Philadelphia, 3:30p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 3:30p.m.
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 3:30p.m.
Ottawa at Anaheim, 4p.m.
Florida at Washington, 5p.m.
New Jersey at Nashville, 6p.m.
Montreal at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Tampa Bay 4, Philadelphia 0
Dallas 4, Edmonton 1
Calgary 5, Chicago 2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. Gonzaga (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. #5 Duke, Friday.
2. UCLA (5-1) did not play. Next: at UNLV, Saturday.
3. Purdue (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Omaha, Friday.
4. Kansas (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. North Texas, Thursday.
5. Duke (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. #1 Gonzaga, Friday.
6. Baylor (4-0) vs. Arizona St. Next: vs. Ark-Pine Bluff, Saturday.
7. Villanova (3-2) did not play. Next: vs. La Salle, Sunday.
8. Texas (3-1) vs. California Baptist. Next: vs. Sam Houston St., Monday.
9. Memphis (4-0) at Virginia Tech. Next: at Georgia, Wednesday.
10. Alabama (4-0) did not play. Next: at Iowa, Thursday.
11. Kent (4-1) vs. North Carolina. Next: vs. North Florida, Friday.
12. Houston (5-1) beat Oregon 78-49. Next: vs. Northwestern State, Tuesday.
13. Arkansas (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Penn, Sunday.
14. Illinois (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Rio Grande, Friday.
15. Tennessee (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee Tech, Friday.
16. St. Bonaventure (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. N. Carolina, Saturday.
17. Arizona (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Sacramento St., Saturday.
18. BYU (4-0) vs. Texas Southern. Next: at Utah Saturday.
19. Auburn (3-1) lost to #23 UConn 115-109 (OT). Next: vs. UCF, Wed.
20. Michigan (3-2) vs. Tarleton St. Next: at North Carolina, Wednesday.
21. Seton Hall (3-1) vs. California. Next: vs. Bethune-Cookman, Sunday.
22. UConn (5-0) beat #19 Auburn 115-109 (OT). Next: vs. UCF, Tue.
23. Florida (4-0) vs. Ohio St. Next: vs. Troy, Sunday.
24. Southern Cal (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Joseph's, Thursday.
25. Xavier (4-0) vs. Iowa St. Next: vs. Central Michigan, Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
Akron 69, Evansville 60
Albany (NY) 64, E. Illinois 62
Campbell 66, Md.-Eastern Shore 55
Canisius 76, Coppin St. 75
Fairfield 83, Stony Brook 78
FIU 65, North Dakota 67
Grambling St. 71, Louisiana College 61
Holy Cross 95, Saint Louis 62
Jacksonville St. 72, Drexel 64
Michigan St. 63, Loyola Chicago 61
Murray St. 74, James Madison 62
NIJT 62, Fairleigh Dickinson 54
New 89, Washington (Md.) 40
New Orleans 90, Cent. Arkansas 63
Rider 85, Bucknell 79
S. Utah 87, Bowling Green 73
Vermont 65, Appalachian St. 63
Yale 69, Milwaukee 56

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE
1. South Carolina (6-0): vs. Elon, Friday.
2. Maryland (6-0): vs. #5 NC State, Thu.
3. UConn (3-1): at Seton Hall, Dec. 3.
4. Indiana (4-0): at #7 Stanford, Thu.
5. NC State (4-1): vs. #2 Maryland, Thu.
6. Baylor (3-1): vs. Fordham, Thursday.
7. Stanford (3-1): vs. #4 Indiana, Thu.
8. Iowa (4-0): vs. Seton Hall, ccd.
9. Arizona (4-0): vs. Vanderbilt, Thu.
10. Louisville (4-1): vs. Colorado St., Sun.
11. Tennessee (4-0): vs. Kansas, Friday.
12. Michigan (5-0): vs. #16 Oregon St., Fri.
13. Iowa State (4-0): vs. Charlotte, Fri.
14. Texas (3-1): vs. CS Northridge, Sat.
15. Oregon (3-2): vs. UC Davis, Dec. 1.
16. Oregon St. (3-0): vs. #12 Michigan, Fri.
17. Florida St. (4-0): vs. BYU, Thursday.
18. South Florida (4-2): vs. Stanford, Fri.
19. UCLA (3-0): vs. Kent State, Friday.
20. Kentucky (3-1): vs. La Salle, Saturday.
21. Ohio St. (4-0): vs. Cincinnati, Sat.
22. West Virginia (3-0): vs. Purdue, Thu.
23. Texas A&M (4-0): vs. Pittsburgh, Thu.
24. Va. Tech (5-0): vs. Missouri St., Fri.
25. Fla. Gulf Coast (5-0): vs. Tenn Tech, Fri.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
(Subject to change)
THURSDAY'S GAMES
Tuskegee (0-1) at Alabama St. (4-6), 3 p.m.
Fresno St. (8-3) at S. Jose St. (6-6), 3:30 p.m.
Mississippi (9-2) at Miss. St. (7-4), 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Ohio (3-8) at Bowling Green (3-8), noon
Kansas St. (7-4) at Texas (4-7), noon
E. Mich. (7-4) at C. Mich. (7-4), noon
Boise St. (7-4) at S. Diego St. (10-1), noon
Iowa (9-2) at Nebraska (3-8), 1:30p.m.
Utah St. (8-3) at N. Mexico (3-8), 1p.m.
UTEP (7-4) at UAB (7-4), 2p.m.
S. Florida (2-9) at UCF (7-4), 3:30p.m.
Co. Carolina (9-2) at S. Ala. (5-6), 3:30 p.m.
Cincinnati (11-0) at E. Carolina (7-4), 3:30p.m.
Missouri (6-5) at Arkansas (7-4), 3:30p.m.
UNLV (2-9) at Air Force (8-3), 3:30p.m.
Colorado (4-7) at Utah (8-3), 4p.m.
TCU (5-6) at Iowa St. (6-5), 4:30p.m.
N. Carolina (6-5) at NC State (8-3), 7 p.m.
Wash. St. (6-5) at Washington (4-7), 8p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
East
Holy Cross (9-2) vs. Sacred Heart (8-3), noon*
Navy (2-8) at Temple (3-8), noon
Wake Forest (9-2) at Bos. Coll. (6-5), noon
Houston (10-1) at Uconn (1-10), noon
Maryland (5-6) at Rutgers (5-6), noon
W. Ky. (7-4) at Marshall (7-4), 3:30p.m.
Pitt (9-2) at Syracuse (5-6), 7:30 p.m.

South
Army (7-3) at Liberty (7-4), noon
Georgia (11-0) at Ga. Tech (3-8), Noon
Florida St. (5-6) at Florida (5-6), Noon
Miami (6-5) at Duke (3-8), 12:30p.m.
Charlotte (5-6) at Old Dominion (5-6), 2p.m.
Troy (5-6) at Georgia St. (6-5), 2p.m.
Ga. So. (3-8) at Appal. St. (9-2), 2:30p.m.
FIU (1-10) at Southern Miss. (2-9), 3p.m.
Alabama (10-1) at Auburn (6-5), 3:30p.m.
Vanderbilt (2-9) at Tenn. (6-5), 3:45p.m.
Va. Tech (5-6) at Virginia (6-5), 3:45p.m.
La-Monroe (4-7) at La-Lafayette (10-1), 4p.m.
Grambling St. (3-9) vs. Southern U.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			</

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday: UConn vs.
Michigan State, noon, ESPN

FOOTBALL
Saturday: UConn vs.
Houston, noon, CBSSN

UConn

from Page 1

State on Thursday at noon in their second game of the tournament.

“The program’s been through a lot. We’ve had to climb these last couple years. We were horrible a couple years ago, and we’re finally climbing this mountain and getting good again and starting to resemble UConn again,” Hurley said.

“And we’re not going to let you knock us off that easily when we’re trying so hard to get this thing back to where UConn should be. So you’ve got to try to kill us to beat us.”

Sophomore forward Adama Sanogo led the Huskies with a career-high 30 points, his third game of the season with at least 20. Graduate students R.J. Cole and Tyler Polley added 24 apiece, Polley on 6 of 9 shooting from 3 and the clutch Trey at the end of regulation to send it to overtime. Freshman Jordan Hawkins was also a bright spot with a career-high 16 points (5-7 shooting, 3-4 on 3s).

The Huskies managed to win despite losing Tyrese Martin, Andre Jackson and Isaiah Whaley at the end of regulation, the first overtime and the second overtime, respectively, after fouling out.

For Auburn (3-1), K.D. Johnson put up 27, followed by 22 for Jabari Smith and 19 for Wendell Green Jr.

“That was a special game, that was a special nonconference game,” Hurley said. “The amount of shot-making and playmaking and athleticism and skill and will, obviously two teams that are going to have the potential to have a great, great year and can see each other in the NCAA Tournament.”

UConn found early success with Sanogo, who scored its first 10 points. But the team otherwise looked discombobulated, coughing up the ball way too much and looking to score through Sanogo. While the defense held stout, the Huskies suddenly faced an 11-point deficit when Green caught fire with three straight 3s.

Following a pivotal timeout at the 11:25 mark, UConn used a 35-13 run to close the half with a 45-34 edge. They rattled off 13 unanswered points, including eight from Polley off the bench, and a layup from Hawkins gave the Huskies their first lead since 6-4.

Auburn briefly retook the lead before the Huskies started rain-

No. 22 UConn men vs. Michigan State

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

It’s a Thanksgiving showdown of two basketball blue bloods in the second round of the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament. No. 22 UConn will take on Michigan State (4-1) at noon on Thursday in the winners’ side of the bracket, with the victor earning a spot in the championship game. Here’s what else you need to know about the matchup.

The basics

Site: Atlantis, Paradise Island, The Bahamas

Time: Noon

Series: Michigan State leads, 4-3

Last meeting: No. 4 Michigan State 77, UConn 57, Nov. 24, 2017, in Portland, Ore.

TV: ESPN

Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Wayne Norman, Mike Crispino)

Elsewhere in the bracket: VCU beat Syracuse 67-55, Baylor-Arizona State tip at 7:30 p.m.

Michigan State probable starters, sixth man

Gabe Brown, F, 6-8, Sr.; Marcus Bingham Jr., F, 7-0, Sr.; Max Christie, G, 6-6, Fr.; Tyson Walker, G, 6-0, Jr.; Malik Hall, F, 6-8, Jr.; Joey Hauser, F, 6-9, R-Sr.

UConn probable starters, sixth man

Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, Gr.; Tyrese Martin, G, 6-6, Sr.; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Andre Jackson, G, 6-6, So.; R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, Gr.; Tyler Polley, F, 6-9, Gr.

ing threes of their own with one from Martin and a three alone from Hawkins before the close of the half. The team as a whole went 8-12 from the perimeter with four different players hitting at least one three, while also buckling down on defense.

UConn’s strong finish to the half carried over after the break, with the Huskies extended their lead to 15 off a dunk from Martin. But Auburn used a doubling down of defensive pressure to narrow the gap, and UConn’s offense stalled,

The matchup

UConn’s offense: No. 18 in offensive efficiency per KenPom. Sanogo is the leading scorer (18.6 points per game). Others featured are Cole and Polley coming off fabulous showings versus Auburn (24 points apiece), as is freshman Jordan Hawkins, who scored a career-high 16 points.

UConn’s defense: No. 27 in defensive efficiency per KenPom. Still what the Huskies take pride in the most.

Michigan State’s offense: No. 50 in offensive efficiency per KenPom. Brown (13.0), Bingham (12.4), Hall (11.6) all average double figures with Christie (9.6) not far behind. The team averages 76.6 points per game on 47% shooting (30.9% on 3s).

Michigan State’s defense: No. 3 in defensive efficiency per KenPom. 35.6% field goal defense, holding opponents to 31.3% on 3s... +10 margin on boards... 8.6 blocks per game... holding teams to 61 points per game.

UConn keys: No more slow starts, offensive execution in the face of intensified defensive pressure, cut down unnecessary turnovers.

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UConn 115, Auburn 109 (2OT)

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Sanogo	37	12-25	6-7	6	1	4	30
Cole	47	6-14	7-8	3	6	4	24
Martin	31	5-9	2-2	8	2	5	13
Whaley	44	0-1	2-2	7	4	5	2
Jackson	20	0-1	0-0	3	5	0	0
Polley	32	6-10	6-7	5	2	2	24
Hawkins	15	5-7	3-4	1	0	0	16
Gaffney	13	0-1	6-8	5	3	1	6
Akok	11	0-1	0-0	5	0	0	0
TOTALS	—	34-69	32-38	48	23	26	115

Three-point goals: 15-26, 57.7 (Polley 6-9, Cole 5-10, Hawkins 3-3, Martin 1-3, Sanogo 0-1). **FG pct.:** 49.3. **FT pct.:** 84.2. **Team rebounds:** 5. **Turnovers:** 24 (Sanogo 8, Cole 5, Martin 3, Gaffney 3, Jackson 2, Hawkins 2, Whaley). **Blocks:** 8 (Whaley 4, Sanogo 2, Polley, Akok). **Steals:** 4 (Cole 3, Jackson).

Auburn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Johnson	38	7-16	11-16	0	1	4	27
Smith	39	4-13	12-12	6	3	5	22
Kessler	25	6-11	1-1	10	2	3	14
Jasper	39	3-8	2-2	3	3	3	9
Cambridge	22	2-4	1-2	2	0	2	6
Green Jr.	33	6-12	3-4	2	5	2	19
Williams	32	4-10	3-4	5	0	1	12
Moore	14	0-0	0-0	1	0	3	0
Cardwell	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0
Akingbola	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	—	32-74	33-41	35	14	24	109

Three-point goals: 12-30, 40.0 (Green Jr. 4-8, Johnson 2-4, Smith 2-6, Cambridge 1-2, Kessler 1-3, Jasper 1-3, Williams 1-4). **FG pct.:** 43.2. **FT pct.:** 80.5. **Team rebounds:** 5. **Turnovers:** 14 (Green Jr. 4, Williams 3, Smith 2, Cambridge 2, Johnson, Kessler, Team). **Blocks:** 3 (Kessler). **Steals:** 13 (Johnson 5, Smith 2, Cambridge 2, Green Jr. 2, Williams 2).

UConn	45	38	12	20	—	115
Auburn	34	49	12	14	—	109

Officials: Simpson, Styons, Luckie. **Att.:** 1,174 at Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, Bahamas.

propel UConn ahead by two with 14 seconds remaining, but Johnson ensured there would be overtime with a layup with four seconds to go and the Huskies’ inability to hit on their last-ditch effort.

“We just tried to stay connected, tried to stay calm,” Polley said. “Mainly just tried to stay together out there. We knew they weren’t going to give up and we knew they were going to keep fighting. We just had to weather the storm and keep pushing and trying to get the win.”

Whaley scare

Whaley had a scare at the end of the game when he appeared to pass out at the UConn bench. The paramedics were called over but he got up under his own power quickly and proceeded with the team through the high-five line.

“He had a fainting episode,” Hurley said. “I think he just stood up too quick. I mean, the dude did play 43 minutes of incredible defense versus a top-five pick [Smith]. So I just think he got up too quick. I don’t even think it’s like an IV bag, dehydration thing. I just think he stood up too quick.”

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Amore

from Page 1

Binghamton on Saturday, coach Dan Hurley popped in a tape of Auburn and, he said, got sick to his stomach at the thought of this first-round match in the Bahamas.

He was even more seasick, one guesses, when Auburn rushed out to a 21-10 lead after 9½ minutes. Hurley called time and reminded his players they were in “a steel cage” match, and it was time to hit back.

Adama Sanogo, who scored UConn’s first 10 points, took a breather and others, notably freshman Jordan Hawkins, took over, with Cole and Polley hitting the first of their momentum-changing shots. After a 29-10 run, the Huskies were in control until late in the second half.

Then Auburn’s pressure defense began forcing turnovers again and the Huskies looked gassed. Cole was at the line with 14 seconds left trying to tie it, and he missed the second shot. Whaley, who hadn’t scored in the game, chased down the rebound, got it to Polley in the right corner and he didn’t hesitate, as he once might have; he buried it.

The pandemic gave Whaley and Polley the chance to come back



The UConn bench celebrates late in Wednesday’s win over Auburn at the Battle 4 Atlantis. **TIM AYLEN/AP**

another year, and neither hesitated. They came back.

For this.

“For sure, that’s one of the reasons I came back, just to compete with my brothers again,” Polley said. “Just to have a chance to play at UConn is something special, that I don’t take for granted. To have another chance, I couldn’t pass that up, to have an opportunity to play like this, to play well in games like this.”

Polley never played better in a game like this. He scored 24 points in 33 minutes, with 11 coming in overtime.

Whaley did the dirty work for 43 minutes before fouling out, and ultimately fainting, apparently from exhaustion. Two points,

seven rebounds, four assists, four blocks. UConn says he’s fine.

And Cole, the transfer from Howard who graduated last May, scored 24 points, 10 in overtime.

The veteran presence can’t be overstated in a game like this. Freshman Jordan Hawkins, in his second game, made a splash with his 3-point shooting and scored 16, but with UConn about to close the game out in the second overtime, he lost the ball. There was defeat on his face; the veterans got around him.

“We told him, ‘We got you,’ ” Cole said. “and we got the win.”

Tyrese Martin, Whaley and Andre Jackson had all fouled out by the time the second OT began. Sanogo, with four fouls,

was playing tough but smart, like a seasoned pro to finish the game with 30 points, but UConn was going to need threes now. Polley delivered two daggers and UConn took a lead for good.

True, the Huskies, up nine with 52 seconds left, put on a virtual clinic on how not to close out a game before Jalen Gaffney hit two at the line, but in the end that didn’t matter. Finally, UConn’s 24 turnovers no longer mattered, nor did the slow start, the second half unravel, nor the fact that the game was played in a ballroom before about 1,000 people in the Bahamas. This was a game of survival, as intense as November gets, and with the steady, calloused hands and weathered faces of experienced players, UConn survived, and advanced to play Michigan State on Thanksgiving Day.

“Our guys, they’re tough,” Hurley said, “they’re battle tested and the program has been through a lot these last couple of years. We’re finally climbing this mountain and getting good again and starting to resemble UConn again, and we’re not going to let you knock us off that easily. You’ve got to try to kill us to beat us.”

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UConn FOOTBALL

Junior cornerback Lucien decides to enter the NCAA transfer portal

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Jeremy Lucien, a UConn defensive back for three seasons, is leaving the Huskies football program and entering the NCAA transfer portal.

The 6-foot-2 junior had 29 tackles, two interceptions and four passes defended for the 1-10 Huskies this season. His interceptions came against Fresno State and Wyoming. From 2018-21, Lucien recorded 57 tackles in 30 games. He did not play at UCF last Satur-

day.

Lucien, from Moore Township, Pennsylvania, played his prep football at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford where he was a dean’s list and headmaster’s scholar. He was a mechanical engineering major at UConn.

There figures to be a lot of roster turnover for UConn this offseason with new head coach Jim L. Mora. Mora, who takes over after Saturday’s season finale, is already out on the recruiting trail looking to bring in his own players to add to Huskies.

Patriots

from Page 1

“(Vrabel) knows his stuff,” Smith said. “He’s a great guy off the field, as well. So it was a great opportunity, a great experience playing for him.”

A year later, the Titans limited the Pats to 13 points in a Wild Card upset that ended Brady’s time in New England. Tennessee’s defense choked out the Patriots over a scoreless second half. Smith acknowledged his old coach carried an extra bounce in his step before competing against his old team.

Though Vrabel knew how to properly harness that energy and motivate.

“He was fired up. He was ready,” Smith said. “He also knew that the history of the team, of course, and all the success that they had and him playing here and all that. But he knew how to channel his emotions and say this is just another game. Don’t believe the hype.”

Those talking points are the same Belichick has been uttering for two decades in Foxboro. Like Belichick, Vrabel has actively been dismissing the impact anything off the field could have on Sunday’s game.

From Tuesday: “The tradition and history is not going to win or lose the game for anybody. I think we all know where the banners are, and the success that organization has had over the last 20 years. What will win or lose the game is playing sound, fundamental football, taking care of the football, penalties, playing with great technique,” Vrabel told local reporters.

“That’s really what they’ve done. It’s been impressive over the last five weeks.”

Over their five-game winning streak, the Patriots defense has come alive with a resurgent linebacking corps. Kyle Van Noy broke out for a season-best game in Atlanta, while Matt Judon and Ja’Whaun Bentley are deep into a career years. Underneath all of their flashy playmaking is the dirty work Dont’a Hightower’s undertaken, such as setting the edge, re-routing receivers and blasting pulling offensive linemen.


Hightower said the Patriots coaches frequently pull up film of former linebackers to coach up their current group on how to execute those assignments. Though, two players tend to flash on the screen more than most.

“Usually it’s Vrabel or Willie (McGinest),” Hightower said. “What you see on Sundays and Mondays from the Titans is a lot of things Vrabel obviously does and did. They’re a well-coached team.”

No one knows the challenge of coaching against a motivated Vrabel-led defense than Pats offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels. His offenses have been held to 23 points total in two matchups. On Monday, McDaniels claimed Tennessee holsters every blitz imaginable in its playbook. He isn’t entirely sure what to expect come kickoff.


And by the sound of his assessment, and those other Patriots have made of Vrabel’s defense and thoroughly physical and well-coached team, it’s almost as if they’re busy preparing for themselves.

“We’re going to probably practice some things we won’t see, and we’re probably going to practice some things that we take a shot that we might see from the past. We’re going to have to be ready to go because this is going to be a huge challenge,” McDaniels said.



Safety Tip of the Day

Windshield wipers are designed to be used when the windshield is wet. Operating them on a dry surface can cause the wipers to wear out much more quickly than they would normally.



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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Rams, NFL settle suit with St. Louis



The NFL and Rams owner Stan Kroenke will pay \$790 million to settle a lawsuit filed by St. Louis interests over the team's relocation to Los Angeles, a joint statement from St. Louis city and county said Wednesday. No details of the settlement were released, and it wasn't immediately clear how much would be paid by Kroenke and how much would be covered by owners of the league's 31 other teams. St. Louis-area officials haven't determined yet how the settlement funds will be used, the statement said. The settlement, reached in mediation, ends a 4 ½-year-old lawsuit filed in the wake of the Rams' 2016 departure. Kroenke, above, and the NFL had failed in bids to have the lawsuit dismissed or at least moved out of St. Louis, and courts were sympathetic to the St. Louis side's effort to disclose financial information of team owners — rulings that hastened the push for a settlement. The case had been scheduled to go to trial Jan. 10. The lawsuit sought more than \$1 billion. It claimed the team's move cost the St. Louis region millions of dollars in amusement, ticket and earnings tax revenue.

Sporting joins Champs League last 16

The parade of European powers advancing to the Champions League knockout stage Wednesday was disrupted by Sporting Lisbon completing a stunning turnaround to join them. Manchester City and Real Madrid are back in the round of 16 after beating teams they lost to in September. Paris Saint-Germain also goes through despite its 2-1 loss at City after leading when Kylian Mbappé scored early in the second half. Madrid's 3-0 win at Sheriff — avenging a 2-1 home defeat to the champion of Moldova two months ago — included a goal for Karim Benzema on a day of legal trouble for the forward and ensured Inter Milan also advanced from Group D by beating Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0. Three-time European champion Inter returns to the round of 16 after a 10-year absence, though Sporting ended a 13-year wait by beating Borussia Dortmund 3-1. Pedro Gonçalves scored twice. Sporting seemed overmatched in September when routed at home by Ajax then beaten in Dortmund, but three straight wins lifted the surprise Portuguese title-winner to advance with a game to spare. "Teams grow," Sporting coach Rúben Amorim said. "It's great, good for the project, but we still have a lot to do." Ajax and Liverpool extended their dominating group-stage campaigns with fifth straight wins.

Holmgren, Zags put on show in Vegas



Chet Holmgren swatted the ball off the backboard, turned and coolly brought it up the floor like a spider-legged point guard. He lost a defender with a dribble behind his back at the top of the key, took two steps and stretched out his 7-foot-1 frame for a two-handed dunk. Gonzaga's lanky freshman has an unmatched skill set. His team may not have a rival at this point, either. Holmgren put on a show with an array of dunks and blocked shots, and top-ranked Gonzaga overwhelmed No. 2 UCLA 83-63 on Tuesday night to win the Empire Classic in Las Vegas. "This was not a shock to us," Gonzaga forward Drew Timme said. "It's what we expect of him and what he expects from himself. It's just Chet. He's one of a kind." The Zags (6-0) played like Vegas headliners, showing there's a big gap between No. 1 and No. 2. Gonzaga hit UCLA (5-1) with a huge early blitz and never let up to beat its second top-5 team this season. Holmgren stole the show at times, denying shots, swooping for dunks and awing the crowd with his agility. He finished with 15 points, six rebounds and four blocks. —News services



Auburn's Javaris Davis defends against Alabama wide receiver Jaylen Waddle during the Iron Bowl in 2018. AP FILE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rivalries redefined?

In changing landscape, tradition faces headwind

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Being an Army football fan is a little like living in time capsule. Home games kickoff at noon at Michie Stadium. The Black Knights will be running an offense that was groundbreaking in 1970. They have no conference affiliation, and no matter what happens throughout the season, success or failure will be defined by the result of the rivalry game against Navy. "It's just exactly like it was in 1972," said Mark Beech, who's a West Point graduate, the son of a West Point graduate and author of "When Saturday Mattered Most: The Last Golden Season of Army Football." The evolution of college football has gone into overdrive the last three decades, both on the field and off. What was once a regional sport has gone national. The powerhouse programs have nearly all consolidated in various conferences, often with little regard for geography or tradition. The great debate was once, "Who's No. 1?" Now it's, "Eight-team playoff or 12?" "The regular season to me was what college football was all about," Beech said. "And the rivalries were the showcase events of the regular season." The rivalry game is in many ways the purest form of college football. A game with built-in stakes regardless of circumstances. But rivalry games that used to be — should be — destinations unto themselves now feel like just

another step on the road to a greater goal. Take the two best college football rivalries, according to a new survey of writers and sportscasters taken by The Associated Press. On Saturday, No. 3 Alabama faces Auburn in the Iron Bowl and No. 2 Ohio State visits No. 6 Michigan in the 117th edition of The Game. Even with a loss, the Crimson Tide will play the following Saturday against No. 1 Georgia for the Southeastern Conference title and a chance to go to the College Football Playoff. The winner of Buckeyes-Wolverines moves on to the Big Ten title game. Win that, too, and it's on to the playoff. Sure, there are plenty of rivalry games that will be played over the Thanksgiving weekend that have only modest stakes attached beyond bragging rights. Still, the fact that this has now been branded Rivalry Week makes the whole thing feel less organic. Has modern college football diminished the importance of rivalry games? ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit, a former Buckeyes quarterback, doesn't think so. "USC-UCLA is a great example," he said. "You have to be a little older because that game's been off the radar, but those teams get on the field, there's still people that think back to when that game decided everything." Herbstreit's son, Zak, is a walk-on at Ohio State and is plenty familiar with the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry. Still, Kirk Herbstreit said his son only now is getting a true taste of the intensity. "He texted me last night, this was a Sunday night, and his text was: 'Man,

do I have a whole new appreciation for this rivalry,'" he said. There's a lot going on, too, from conference realignment and playoff expansion to the transfer portal and the newfound OK for college athletes to earn money based on their fame. "All this stuff that's out there, I think it's up to the coaches to still make these rivalries special," Herbstreit said. Ohio State has dominated Michigan for the last decade and a half, winning 15 of 16 and the last eight. The Buckeyes are among a handful of programs, along with Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Oklahoma and a few others, that annually operate under national-title-or-bust expectations. Is beating Michigan that important to Ohio State fans? Or are the spoils that come from beating Michigan what's really important? "I just think you're one loss away from taking a rival for granted and getting a quick reminder about why this is what it is," Herbstreit said. Which bring us back to Army-Navy, No. 3 in the AP ranking of best college football rivalries. There was a time, back in the days of grainy newsreels, Army-Navy games could determine national championships. Those days are never coming back. But that's OK. While the importance of other rivalry games rises and falls with the fortunes of the programs that play in them — remember when Miami-Florida State was a bigger deal than the Iron Bowl? — Army-Navy is a constant. The one rivalry game left in college football that still truly defines the season for each team.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES TO WATCH

No surprise, stakes high in The Game

By Matt Murschel | Orlando Sentinel



No. 9 Ole Miss (9-2) at Mississippi State (7-4)

7:30 p.m. Thursday, ESPN
This version of the Egg Bowl isn't short on storylines but the one guaranteed to garner the most attention centers on the future of Lane Kiffin. With his name mentioned as a possible candidate for openings at Florida, LSU and USC, could this be Kiffin's last game as the coach at Ole Miss? This game also features two of the top quarterbacks in the SEC. Mississippi State's Will Rogers is one of three players with 4,000 passing yards in the country, while Ole Miss QB Matt Corral could be a first-round selection in the 2022 NFL draft.



No. 2 Ohio State (10-1) at No. 5 Michigan (10-1)

Noon Saturday, FOX
As if this game needed any more juice with the winner claiming the Big Ten East crown, a spot in the conference championship game and an inside track in the College Football Playoff race. This game marks the fifth time these teams faced off while ranked in the top 10 since 2000. In this series, Ohio State won eight straight games, with the last loss in Ann Arbor in 2011. Michigan is winless against the Buckeyes under coach Jim Harbaugh (0-5), with the Wolverines a dismal 2-13 against AP top 10 teams. Ohio State is No. 2 in the AP rankings, while Michigan is No. 6.



No. 18 Wake Forest (9-2) at Boston College (6-5)

Noon Saturday, ESPN2
Wake Forest can clinch its first Atlantic Division crown since 2006 and earn a spot in the ACC championship game. A loss by the Demon Deacons opens the door for either N.C. State or Clemson to win the division and a subsequent trip to the title game in Charlotte. Boston College hopes to win seven games in a season for the first time since 2018. Wake QB Sam Hartman has put together a career season, one in which he's passed for 3,475 yards with 31 TDs and nine interceptions.



No. 3 Alabama (10-1) at Auburn (6-5)

3:30 p.m. Saturday, CBS
The shine for the Iron Bowl may have dulled a bit with Alabama claiming the SEC West last week, but it doesn't mean this game doesn't lack interest. The Crimson Tide have won five of the previous seven games in this series but have dropped two straight at Auburn. While Alabama has its ticket punched to the SEC championship game in Atlanta and a matchup against top-ranked Georgia, a loss to the Tigers, could seriously damage its College Football Playoff chances.



No. 13 Oklahoma (10-1) at No. 7 Oklahoma St. (10-1)

7:30 p.m. Saturday, ABC
With Oklahoma headed to the SEC in 2025, this could be one of the final meetings in this long-running rivalry. Oklahoma State clinched a spot in the Big 12 championship last week, but the Cowboys hope to snap a six-game losing streak to their in-state rivals. Oklahoma can return to the conference title game for the seventh straight season with a win or a Baylor loss to Texas Tech. The Cowboys feature one of the stingiest defenses in the country, allowing less than 15 points and 267 yards per game.

Other games of note

No. 16 Iowa (9-2) at Nebraska (3-8) on Friday: The Hawkeyes have beaten the Huskers in six straight, but the last three win have only been by a combined 12 points.
No. 1 Georgia (11-0) at Georgia Tech (3-8) on Saturday: Since the Yellow Jackets beat the Bulldogs in Kirby Smart's first season as coach, Georgia has won three straight by an average of 33 points.
Oregon State (7-4) at No. 11 Oregon (9-2) on Saturday: The Ducks are 2-2 vs. the Beavers under Mario Cristobal.



Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh is 0-5 against Ohio State. A win over the Buckeyes on Saturday would vault the Wolverines deep into the CFP conversation. JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Hartford Courant

FLAVOR

LIVING

DINING REVIEW

UPSCALE COMFORT

The Charles in Old Wethersfield is the most exciting new restaurant in the Hartford area in years

By Rand Richards Cooper
Special To The Courant

Opening a restaurant during the COVID-stricken summer of 2020 was no easy prospect, and you might expect first-timers to start small. Not Bryce and Kerri Hardy.

Moving to Old Wethersfield eight years ago with restaurant dreams, the couple eventually set their sights on a village landmark, a stately Italianate-style house that once hosted the Pyquag Inn, soccer legend Tony DeCicco's goalkeeping school and a hair salon. Hardy worried that the place was too big, but his wife held firm.

"She said, 'We're doing it,'" he recalls with a laugh. "It's going right here."

So here it is. And yes, it is big. On a busy night The Charles (both Hardys had grandfathers with this name) might host 200 guests at one time. The restaurant's layout offers terrific variety. You can dine inside the mansion amid mahogany, gold-leaf wallpaper, fireplaces in every room, and huge nine-over-nine windows. Or you can sit in the spacious, plush bar for happy hour. Alternately you can sit outdoors under a tent or in one of the Adirondack chairs on the lawn.

Seen from the street at night, The Charles is a glittery gem box of a building, both floors lighted and filled with diners. Pulling up to it feels like you're going to a party at Gatsby's house. The place itself adds deliciousness to your evening.

The cooking of Thomas Kaldy adds more. The Hardys' guiding food concept — "elevated American comfort food" — gets a boost from the classic French background of Kaldy, whose resume includes Cavey's and Artisan locally, and Thomas Keller's Bouchon in Vegas. His kitchen adorns classic presentations with unexpected touches. A crab cake comes perched atop a heap of charred-corn succotash. A swordfish special boasts an intense kalamata tapenade above and chunks of roasted potatoes and buttery grilled herbed baguette below. Onion soup isn't the usual mass of onions with crusty melted Gruyère, but rather a sweet, sherry-inflected onion broth with three pierogies and a pair of broiled cheese wafers adrift on top.

Kaldy has a masterful way with soups and sauces. The star of one evening was a bowl of mussels, the wine-and-garlic broth augmented with a slew of onions, peppers, and crumbled chorizo. A cod entrée centers the fillet in a bowl of sweet, creamy corn chowder decorated with potato crisps and rivulets of chili oil. And airline-style chicken (named for its popularity during the era of full-service inflight meals) pairs a "Frenched" chicken quarter — the meat cut and pushed back from the end of the wing bone — with a generous complement of wild mushrooms and gnocchi, the whole shebang pooled in a seductive sauce made from brown butter, brandy, garlic and lemon confit. Yum.

On every visit we found a lot to like. Poutine, the popular Quebecois specialty, was deftly executed — no gloppy, roux-thickened gravy, but instead a flavorful pork jus over high-grade pulled pork, and cheddar cheese curds browned against the sides of a sizzling cast-iron baking dish. (I stole a fried egg from my wife's avocado toast to complete the treat.) Desserts by pastry chef Catherine Laughlin continued the upscaled-comfort-food theme, including a spiffy looking, and lavish



Since opening in the summer of 2020, this landmark has lit up Old Wethersfield. It is now decorated for the winter holidays. WINTER CAPLANSON PHOTOS



Among the appetizers at The Charles are deviled eggs and an antipasta board. The Charlie Burger is one of about nine sandwiches, all served with your choice of pommes frites, organic mixed greens, cole slaw or broccoli salad.

The Basics

THE CHARLES: 161 Main St., Wethersfield. 860-785-8499 and thecharlesct.com
THE BILL: Soups, salads, appetizers, \$6 to \$18; entrees, \$21 to \$42; sides, \$6 to \$8; desserts, \$10. Specialty cocktails (\$12 to \$14); mocktails (\$7 to \$12); full bar and wines by the glass and bottle at various prices.
COVID-19 ACCOMMODATION: All staff members wear masks and get temperature checks; UV light consoles with HEPA filters in dining rooms; UV lights in HVAC system to purify air; ample outdoor dining.
IF YOU GO: Open Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Monday. Reservations strongly recommended.
ACCESSIBILITY: Wheelchair access through front of restaurant. Free parking in lots at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and the fire station, both on Main Street.

tasting, s'more trifle, its carefully laid strata of graham-cracker cake, chocolate cream, and melted marshmallow visible through the cocktail-style glass. What few lapses we encountered reflected excesses of ambition. Seafood pot pie was presented in deconstructed form — no crust, but a tomatoey, Old Bay-accented soup,

with shrimp, carrots, peas, and sliced fingerlings beneath four floating triangles of seasoned pastry crust. While the presentation rates high for novelty, when I order something called pie, I'd prefer it to be solid, not liquid. Sometimes an inspired kitchen can stumble over its own creativity. But you have to struggle to find



Airline-style chicken pairs a chicken quarter with a generous complement of wild mushrooms and gnocchi, pooled in a sauce of brown butter, brandy, garlic and lemon confit.

anything to complain about at The Charles. There's something idyllic in being here in early evening, kids and adults playing corn hole and connect-four on the lawn, the setting sun dazzling the clapboards.

It's worth noting that The Charles isn't exactly about simple family dining. Esoteric cocktails may baffle the non-bartender — like one with "Leblon cachaça, velvet falernum, caravedo pisco, and chartreuse" — and an appetizer of four deviled eggs, tanged up with sriracha and speckled with bits of crispy smoked ham, rings in at \$10. This is high-quality, full-service dining, and you pay for what you get. If you're looking for a way to spend less, I'd suggest going for happy hour, getting a pair of the supremely tasty beef sliders — an apron of crisp-broiled cheese fanning out from the bun — with truffle fries and an ale, all for around \$20.

Some new restaurants hit the ground running. The Charles has hit the ground flying. Ambitious, gorgeous and stylish without being stuffy, it is the most exciting new restaurant in the Hartford area in years.

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A WORLD OF RECIPES

Over legendary 50-year career, Claudia Roden has transformed her travels into cookbooks

By **Melissa Clark**
The New York Times

LONDON — If you’ve ever swiped a supple piece of pita bread through a plate of garlicky hummus and your family roots aren’t in the Middle East, you may have Claudia Roden to thank.

In 1968, in the modestly titled “A Book of Middle Eastern Food,” the 32-year-old Egyptian exile gave the non-Arabic-speaking world one of its first detailed looks at this rich cuisine. Through hundreds of traditional, comprehensive and carefully tested recipes, like herb-flecked Lebanese tabbouleh and Syrian lamb kibbe, she introduced western home cooks to the subtle, extensive art of Middle Eastern cooking.

Before her book, she could find no volume of recipes like this published in English or in any European language. If you wanted to make baba ghanouj, you might persuade a Turkish or Egyptian cook to share family secrets passed down through generations. But let’s face it: Before 1968, if you were living in Britain, chances were good you’d never tasted baba ghanouj.

Over the course of her 50-year career, Roden, 85, has helped revolutionize the way the British cook and eat. She taught them how to blend cucumbers with yogurt and garlic into a creamy salad, how to simmer lentils with cumin to make a warming soup, and how to fold phyllo stuffed with cheese and herbs into flaky bite-size pastries.

As if that wasn’t legacy enough, she also helped shift the way writing about cuisine, particularly by women, was perceived.

Paul Levy, chairman emeritus of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery, of which Roden was a founding member, said her scholarship on food was part of a growing cultural trend.

Along with culinary writers like Elizabeth David, Jane Grigson, Sri Owen and even Julia Child, he said, she deepened the conversation around food to address questions of culture, context, history and identity.

Her dozen cookbooks, particularly “The Book of Jewish Food,” produced a genre of works that is at once literary and deeply researched while still being, at heart, practical manuals on how to make delicious meals.

When Roden started writing “A Book of Middle Eastern Food,” David had already published a handful of Middle Eastern recipes — notably, hummus bi tahina — in her far-ranging “A Book of Mediterranean Food” in 1950. But it was Roden’s work that took on the entire cuisine of the Middle East in depth, in ways both scholarly and highly personal.

Yotam Ottolenghi, the chef, cookbook author and New York Times food columnist, credits Roden with laying the foundation for chefs like him.

“A Book of Middle Eastern Food” has been around for so long, it feels like prehistory,” he said. “It was really revelatory for its time.”

Although it’s hard to imagine, in the midst of Britain’s current love affair with Middle Eastern flavors, the cuisine was considered outlandish and unappealing in the 1960s. Roden’s book was all but ignored when it came out. “At that moment, no one was interested in the food of the enemy culture,” said Roden, who identifies as a Sephardi/Mizrahi Jew (Mizrahi is the Israeli term for Jews from the Middle East and North Africa). “When the book came out, people would always ask me if all the recipes were for testicles and eyeballs.”

Roden recounted this in late summer as we sat in her flower-bordered North London garden, savoring bullinada, an aioli-spiked fish stew, a recipe from her



Prolific cookbook author Claudia Roden at her London home Oct. 26. Roden, 85, has helped revolutionize the way the British cook and eat. **LAUREN FLEISHMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

latest cookbook (published in the United States on Nov. 9), “Claudia Roden’s Mediterranean: Treasured Recipes From a Lifetime of Travel” (Ten Speed Press, 2021).

At the border of the lawn stood a hedgerow of scarlet-blossomed fuchsia trees reminiscent of the fluorescent bougainvillea on her family’s terrace in Cairo, where she lived until she was 15. That’s when she left for boarding school in Paris — and didn’t return until a quarter-century later. By that time, her family had long been expelled from Egypt, and her childhood home was gone.

Memories of Cairo

Claudia Douek was born in 1936 to a large, prominent Syrian Jewish family that had emigrated to Cairo in the 19th century. This was when the Egyptian capital supplanted Aleppo as the region’s mercantile center after the opening of the Suez Canal.

Cairo had a diverse, polyglot culture. Roden’s first language was French (as it was for all cosmopolitan Jews in Cairo), followed by Italian (the language of her beloved nanny), English and Arabic. Her maternal grandmother, who could trace her ancestry back to pre-Inquisition Spain, spoke Judeo-Spanish (Ladino), which Roden absorbed and which helped her research and write “The Food of Spain,” published in 2011.

She lived with her parents, Nelly and Cesar Douek, and two brothers in a prosperous circle of extended family, with dozens of cousins, aunts and uncles nearby. They all gathered regularly for opulent feasts scented with rosewater and toasted coriander; every holiday, wedding, birth and even Shabbat dinner was celebrated on a grand scale.

In 1956, during the Suez crisis, the president of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser, expelled the Jews from the country. Leaving all its possessions behind, the Douek family made its way to London, where Roden attended St. Martin’s School of Art and went on to become an accomplished painter.

Nelly Douek’s kitchen became a gathering place for fellow exiles. They sought succor in stuffed vine leaves and honeyed pastries, and companionship in the memories they all shared.

Although most of the cooking in Roden’s childhood home was done by servants, Nelly Douek and her friends chopped herbs,

kneaded doughs, stuffed vegetables and rolled confections in London, laughing and reminiscing over cups of syrupy coffee.

Throughout the Middle East at that time, a family’s heirloom recipes were among its most closely guarded secrets. The indiscreet sharing of a recipe would have been nearly as bad as negotiating an unfortunate marriage for one of the children.

In exile, things were different. The exchange of recipes became a currency, a way of communicating and expressing love. And women were freer to choose their husbands. (Roden married Paul Roden when she was 22; the couple had three children before separating in 1974.)

In her mother’s busy kitchen, Roden heard the women ask the same question — “Do you have any recipes?” — every time a cousin or friend would arrive. They shared the secrets to their dishes so that when any one of them prepared that rich orange-almond cake or a mint-sprinkled tahini salad, they would remember one another and feel loved and understood.

Roden took notes, detailing regional pilaf variations and each cook’s method of layering onions, tomatoes and pita bread into fattoush.

“We all felt a very strong need to collect, to record,” Roden said, adding that it was all part of preserving culture and identity.

“If we don’t collect it,” she said, “it will disappear.”

She amassed more than 1,000 recipes and stories this way. These became the cornerstone not only for “A Book of Middle Eastern Food” but also for “The Book of Jewish Food,” since most of the families who passed through the Doueks’ home were from the Sephardic Jewish diaspora. In addition, she spent 10 years researching recipes and customs from other parts of the Arab world.

She worked on those two canonical books for a combined total of 25 years. But she wasn’t done. When her children grew up and left home, she left, too, traveling across the world to research her books “The Food of Italy,” “The Food of Spain” and “Arabesque: A Taste of Morocco, Turkey, & Lebanon.”

On these trips, she delighted in talking to anyone about food and culture: people on trains and buses, waiters in cafes and maids in hotels. She’d ask them what they liked to eat and if they had any recipes. Traveling alone, Roden had a knack for getting herself invited by strangers to try a local specialty, like the octopus-and-potato

salad from the Greek island of Skopelos in her most recent cookbook.

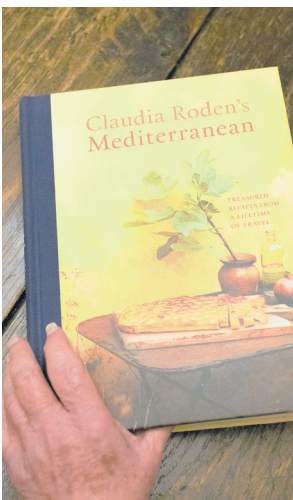
“As I was walking by a family eating on their terrace, they invited me in to share their octopus salad and a bottle of wine,” she wrote. “It was heaven.”

A scholar and an artist

Of all her books, “Claudia Roden’s Mediterranean” is

the most poetic, the most lyrical (with photos by Susan Bell) and perhaps the one that most unites all of her many facets.

Containing 100 recipes and spare but warm prose, it has an intimacy that shows these are the dishes she’d cook if you came to her house, gathered from her lifelong travels. But instead of striving to faithfully record someone’s recipe, as she does in other books, she has taken the



Roden holds a copy of her newest cookbook, “Claudia Roden’s Mediterranean.” Her cookbooks are literary and deeply researched but are still, at heart, practical manuals on how to make delicious meals.

creative license to tweak them to suit herself. There’s an emphasis on vegetables and grains, and in many cases, simplified, streamlined techniques (and even an occasional one-pot meal).

Food writer Nigella Lawson, a friend of Roden since Lawson was 19, calls this book a distillation of Roden’s joyful, generous spirit. Reading it is like talking with her in her garden, Lawson said.


“All of a sudden, there are all these exquisite little plates in front of you, and she’s telling you to dip something in olive oil. And you have this sense of what it would be like at her house in Cairo, sitting on her terrace, watching the sunset.”

Which is, of course, exactly what Roden has set out to do.

“Writing this book was a way of bringing back my past,” Roden said as the light cast a warm glow over her garden, “and enjoying all of my memories.”

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Wines to toast Thanksgiving — and beyond

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

Thanksgiving is the most singular meal of the year for most Americans.

It's usually the biggest dinner party, with dishes cooked maybe once a year, often by many different people. It may also be the only day of the year when generally compartmentalized groups of family and friends blend together.

A week ago, I wrote up our annual Thanksgiving wine tasting, which broke down exactly the sort of nimble, energetic wines that will go best with such an unusual feast.

I wanted to follow that up by recommending another dozen bottles, six whites and six reds, that would be great on the holiday table. But don't think of them as merely Thanksgiving wines. They are so good and so versatile they are worth serving anytime.

It turns out, the characteristics that make a wine good for the unusual combination of foods and people at Thanksgiving are generally great qualities to find in wines most of the time.

As I suggested in the last piece, the crucial characteristic in a Thanksgiving wine is acidity, which, in the right proportion, gives a wine energy, lift and liveliness. It's what makes a wine refreshing, and it helps to keep you going through a long day full of heavy foods.

Markus Altenburger Burgenland Joiser Reben Grüner Veltliner 2020, \$21

Here's a grüner veltliner not only with the herbal and citrus aromas and flavors typical of the variety but with a vibrant texture that seems to cleanse the mouth, readying it for the next bite or sip. That ability to refresh and rejuvenate is just what you want at a heavy meal. Markus Altenburger farms biodynamically and does as little in the



EVAN SUNG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

cellar as he can, a fact that's clear from the hazy opacity of the wine. Regardless, it's delicious.

Ponce Manchuela Bobal La Casilla 2018, \$23

Over the centuries, few have given the bobal grape much respect. Grown mostly in eastern Spanish regions like Manchuela, bobal has largely gone into cheap bulk red wines produced by cooperatives. But recently, serious producers like Juan Antonio Ponce, with access to old vineyards of the grape, have shown that it in fact has the potential to make superb wines. La Casilla, from bobal grown on limestone, is light, elegant and profoundly mineral, with stony flavors of red fruits, yet it goes down easy.

Cruse Wine Co. North Coast Monkey Jacket Red Blend 2018, \$25

Michael Cruse makes wine in a warehouse off Highway 101 in Sonoma County near Petaluma,

California. Like Broc Cellars, another startup with a production facility that belies wine's pastoral myth, Cruse seeks out less exalted grapes that are farmed conscientiously and treats them gently in the winery. Monkey Jacket is mostly valdigué blended with carignan, petite sirah and tannat, among others. It's bright and lively with focused flavors of earthy red fruits and flowers.

Nanclares y Prieto Rías Baixas Dandelión Albariño 2020, \$25

Alberto Nanclares and Silvia Prieto make a series of organically farmed albariños that are among the best examples of the variety. Dandelión is an excellent introduction to their line, pure, fresh, deep, textured and mineral, with floral, herbal and fruit flavors. It's the sort of wine that always seems to hold a little back, which keeps you moving toward that next sip in an effort to unravel its full dimension.

Anne and Sylvain Liotard Domaine des 13 Lunes Vin de Savoie Apremont 2020, \$19

This Apremont, made of biodynamically farmed jacquère grapes, is fresh, lively and low in alcohol at 11%, the sort of wine that invites another sip because it feels so good in the mouth.

Domaine Cornu-Camus Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits 2019, \$24

Burgundy is now the world's most exalted wine region, and you rarely find good bottles in this price range. But here's a great example, from a little-known producer and an often overlooked terroir. The Hautes-Côtes de Nuits, in the hills to the west of the more famous and prestigious Côtes de Nuits vineyards, was historically a source of inexpensive reds, partly because the grapes were more difficult to ripen there. But climate change has made ripening easier

and raised the general level of quality. This bottle is earthy and fruity, yet focused and refreshing.

Southold Farm and Cellar Texas High Plains "Don't Forget to Soar" White Wine Blend 2020, \$21

This blend of roussanne and grüner veltliner, grown on the High Plains of Texas, is bright and vibrant, with intense earthy, herbal and citrus flavors that are neither complex nor complicated. It's a true thirst quencher.

Beurer Württemberg Riesling Trocken 2020, \$25

Jochen Beurer is an excellent producer of both whites and reds in the Württemberg region of southwestern Germany. This entry-level riesling is lively, dry and savory, almost saline, tangy and delicious. It's broader and less fragile than a Mosel riesling yet not at all heavy or overbearing.

Paul Cherrier Sancerre

2019, \$25

Wine snobs tend to sneer at Sancerre because it's so effortlessly popular, but Sancerre and other sauvignon blancs are the sort of crowd-pleasers that can be just right for the Thanksgiving table. The problem is, a lot of sauvignon blancs are mediocre. Yet the good ones, like this bottle, can be excellent: pure, fragrant, resonant, crisp, earthy and mineral.

Bernard Baudry Chinon Les Granges 2020, \$21

Bernard Baudry is one of the best and most reliable Chinon producers. Les Granges is the introductory bottle, made from young cabernet franc vines, farmed organically, and intended for early drinking. It's lively, juicy and earthy, and easy to enjoy.

The Whole Shebang California Fourteenth Cuvée NV, \$16

This red blend is a perpetually excellent value from Bedrock Wine Co., which makes a wide variety of terrific, unmanipulated wines from old California vineyards. The array of groups includes zinfandel, carignan, syrah and petite sirah, and vintages are mixed as well, a welcome tactic. The result is an easy-going, lively wine that is delicious and versatile.

Raúl Pérez Bierzo Ultreia Saint Jacques 2018, \$23

It's always interesting to compare mencías grown in Bierzo in western Spain, with those grown in Ribeira Sacra, a little farther west in Galicia. It's especially interesting when they are made by Raúl Pérez, a master of mencía who makes wine in both places. Ultreia Saint Jacques is his entry-level Bierzo. Grown mostly on clay soils, it's fruitier and a little heavier than the more racy Ribeira Sacras, grown on slate soils. It's juicy, spicy and balanced, with a touch of creaminess.



This roasted squash dish is so easy to put together, you may find yourself making it repeatedly for friends and family. **DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON/TNS**

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Roasted delicata squash is great addition to your table

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

When I look in the squash stall at the market and eye delicata squash I get excited. Here's a seasonal vegetable that has so many delicious elements to it. I love its colorful exterior, with green and yellow stripes, its rich creamy, almost buttery interior, and being able to eat the delicate, edible skin.

The prep for this dish takes a bit of time with slicing it into eights and removing the seeds. But you don't have to peel it. Make sure you use a heavy knife to easily cut through the squash.

To roast, I use a nonstick half sheet that has been oiled and lined with parchment

paper. Each squash piece is oiled on all sides which helps to brown the squash. The sweetness of the squash is complemented by the finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves that offer a pine, sage-like flavor. Rosemary can be added to food as it cooks because its flavor is not lost as it cooks.

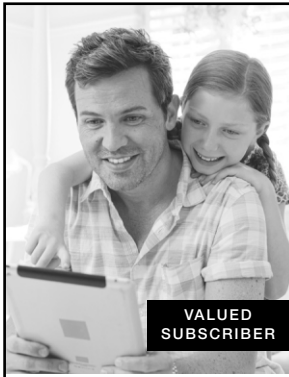
This dish can be the star of the show for vegetarians or a tasty side to an assortment of dishes. I like to serve this as a side dish to chicken, Cornish hens, turkey or pork. I also like to serve it at room temperature on top of arugula or a spring mix. A simple vinaigrette dresses the greens.

No matter how you serve this, you'll love the fresh, clean flavors of this dish.

Roasted delicata squash with goat cheese and rosemary

Makes: 6 to 8 servings
2 delicata squash, about 1 pound each, washed and cleaned to remove any wax
¼ cup olive oil
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
¼ pound goat cheese, at room temp, crumbled
Zest of 1 lemon
Fresh rosemary leaves, for garnish
1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Trim the ends of the squash off. Then cut the squash in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and stringy flesh from the center. Cut each in half again width-wise and once more

lengthwise to get 8 pieces for each squash. (You will have a total of 16 pieces.)
2. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper and then oil the paper. Drizzle the oil over the pieces and brush pieces so all sides are coated. Season the inside flesh with salt and pepper and chopped rosemary. Lay squash pieces flesh-side down on the baking sheet.
3. Bake for about 18 minutes on one side and then turn over and continue roasting for another 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.
4. Transfer the squash to a serving platter with a wide spatula and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Sprinkle crumbled goat cheese over the squash. Then sprinkle lemon zest on top. Garnish with rosemary leaves. Serve warm or at room temperature.



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This savory Dutch baby is topped with roasted mushrooms, bacon and shredded cheddar cheese. **GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE PHOTOS**

Roasted mushroom and bacon Dutch baby

Makes: 4–6 servings
1 pound mixed mushrooms (such as cremini, button or shiitake), sliced
4 slices bacon, sliced
3 large eggs
1 clove garlic, chopped
¾ cup whole milk
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, divided
½ cup all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
2 tablespoons cornstarch
Kosher salt
1 tablespoon fresh thyme
2 ounces cheddar cheese, grated (about ½ cup)
1 scallion, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley

1. Set oven racks in middle and upper positions. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place mushrooms and bacon on a rimmed baking sheet. Place on top rack in oven while preheating and roast, stirring once, until mushrooms are golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Place a 10-inch cast-iron skillet on middle rack and heat 15 minutes.

2. Place eggs and garlic in a blender. Process on high until frothy, 45 seconds. With blender running, gradually add milk and 2 tablespoons butter; stop blender. Add flour, cornstarch and ¼ teaspoon salt; process 1 minute. Fold in thyme.

3. Carefully add remaining tablespoon butter to heated skillet and swirl to coat. Immediately add batter. Bake until golden brown and puffed, 14 to 16 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and bake until melted, 3 to 5 minutes. Top with mushroom mixture, scallions and parsley.
— *From countryliving.com*

Embrace the 3 recipes that are perfect for the kitchen workhorse cast-iron skillet

By Gretchen McKay
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Nonstick pans are a godsend for frying eggs and flipping pancakes, and an enameled Dutch oven will never disappoint while cooking soups, stews and sauces. But when it comes to the workhorse of kitchen equipment, nothing beats a well-seasoned cast-iron pan.

Not only is cast-iron cookware relatively inexpensive, it's incredibly versatile. You might think grandma used it just for frying chicken or making cornbread, but you also can roast a chicken or sear a steak in a cast-iron pan, use one to make the fluffiest pancakes, bake a deep-dish pizza or even panfry a piece of fish.

Properly seasoned, cast-iron pans boast a silky, shiny surface that's naturally nonstick, eliminating the need for added fats. It also retains even, constant heat if the pan has been preheated over medium-high heat on the stovetop or in a 500-degree oven.

Not sold? The cookware also can go directly from the stovetop or oven to the table, and if you take care of it properly, cast-iron lasts for generations, earning it points for sustainability.

Pan-seared sausage with apples

Makes: 4 servings
Note: The choice of apple is key. You need to use a firm variety, such as Pink Lady or Gala, that will hold up to heat well. (Red and Golden Delicious will get mushy.)
1 tablespoon olive oil
4 tart apples, each cored and cut into 8 slices
½ small red cabbage, shredded
4 sweet Italian sausages (about 1 ½ pounds)
¼ cup dry white wine
2 tablespoons white wine or Champagne vinegar
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add apples, cut-side down, turning occasionally, until apples are golden brown, 5–8 minutes. Add cabbage and continue to cook until cabbage is wilted, about 4 to 5 minutes.

2. Prick sausages with a fork, then add to skillet. Cook, turning occasionally, until sausage is browned and cooked through, 10–12 minutes.

3. Add wine and vinegar to skillet. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until sauce is thick enough



to coat a spoon, 4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Spoon over with pan juices and serve with some crusty bread for sopping up sauce.
— *Adapted from bonappetit.com*

Skillet sweet potato hash

Makes: 1 serving
Olive oil, for pan
1 medium sweet potato, peeled and shredded (about 2 cups)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Butter for pan
2 eggs
2 thick slices smoked ham
Chopped parsley, for garnish

1. Heat a medium cast-iron pan over medium heat and add 1 tablespoon or two of olive oil, swirling to coat the pan. Once sizzling, add shredded sweet potato in a single layer, season generously with salt and pepper and cook, turning every so often with a spatula, until the potatoes are soft and nicely browned, and you can't make out the individual shreds. Cover and keep warm while you prepare the eggs.

2. Heat another pan over medium heat, then add 1 tablespoon or so of butter. Reduce heat to low, then break 2 eggs into pan. Cover with a lid, and cook until egg white is set, around 3 minutes.

3. While eggs are cooking, heat a flat skillet over medium heat, then add 2 slices of ham. Pan fry until brown and crispy, about 2–3 minutes per side.

4. Spoon sweet potatoes onto a plate, then top with fried eggs. Place ham beside hash and drizzle Sriracha sauce over top. Garnish with chopped parsley, and serve immediately.

Warm salad comes together in minutes

By Gretchen McKay
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

I've been married for a gazillion years, but I still like to occasionally woo my husband with a great meal. Which is not to say I spend hours preparing a meal that reminds the guy how much I love him, because oftentimes the best dinner is the one that the cook can pull together without much effort.

This date-night salad is a great example of a dish any home cook can whip up in a flash using everyday ingredients.

It pairs crispy panko fried-chicken tenders with the contrasting but complimentary flavors of fresh orange, salty blue cheese-stuffed olives and the rich caramel taste of dried dates. It's presented on a bed of peppery arugula and tender baby spinach.

But the real star is the warm mustard dressing, which gets a zesty, citrusy kick from apple cider vinegar and orange juice concentrate.

I garnished the salad with crumbled goat cheese and toasted almonds. Paired with some crusty bread and a glass of crisp rosé, it was a perfect meal for two. And it only took about 15 minutes.



This warm arugula salad delivers a satisfying mix of pan-fried chicken tenders, fresh oranges, olives and goat cheese in a warm citrus dressing, with a toasted almond garnish for crunch.
GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Warm arugula salad with chicken and chevre

Makes: 2 servings
For the salad:
6 cups arugula and/or baby spinach, or mix of both
6 large blue cheese-stuffed or regular pitted green olives, halved or quartered
4 large dried dates, quartered or diced
1 navel orange, peeled, sectioned and cut into chunks
For the chicken:
1 cup panko bread crumbs
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon dried basil
¼ teaspoon dried thyme
¼ teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
½ cup flour
1 egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water
½ pound boneless chicken tenders, or 1 large boneless chicken breast cut into thin strips
Olive oil, for frying
For the dressing:
4 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate
2 tablespoons water
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ cup crumbled goat cheese
¼ cup toasted slivered almonds, for garnish

1. Place arugula and/or

spinach, olives, dates and orange chunks in a large salad bowl. Set aside.

2. In a medium bowl, stir together panko bread crumbs and dried spices until evenly mixed, then place on a large plate. Place flour on another plate. In large bowl, beat egg with 2 tablespoons water.

3. Dredge chicken in the flour, coating well. Shake off excess flour and dip in the egg, then roll chicken in the panko crumbs to coat. Set the chicken to the side to rest for about 5 minutes. (This helps the coating stick better.)

4. Place 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a large nonstick skillet, and heat over medium-high heat. When it sizzles, add the chicken and cook until golden and just cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate and cover with foil to keep warm.

5. Add orange juice concentrate, water and vinegar to pan. Stir in mustard and let dressing boil for about 30 seconds. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add ½ of the dressing to the salad and toss gently to mix.

6. Divide salad between 2 plates. Top salads with fried chicken and goat cheese, and drizzle on remaining dressing. Garnish with toasted almonds and serve.
— *Adapted from "Eating Well Serves Two" by Jim Romanoff*



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